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1993 IN REVIEW • ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS • PREDICTIONS FOR 1994

March 1994

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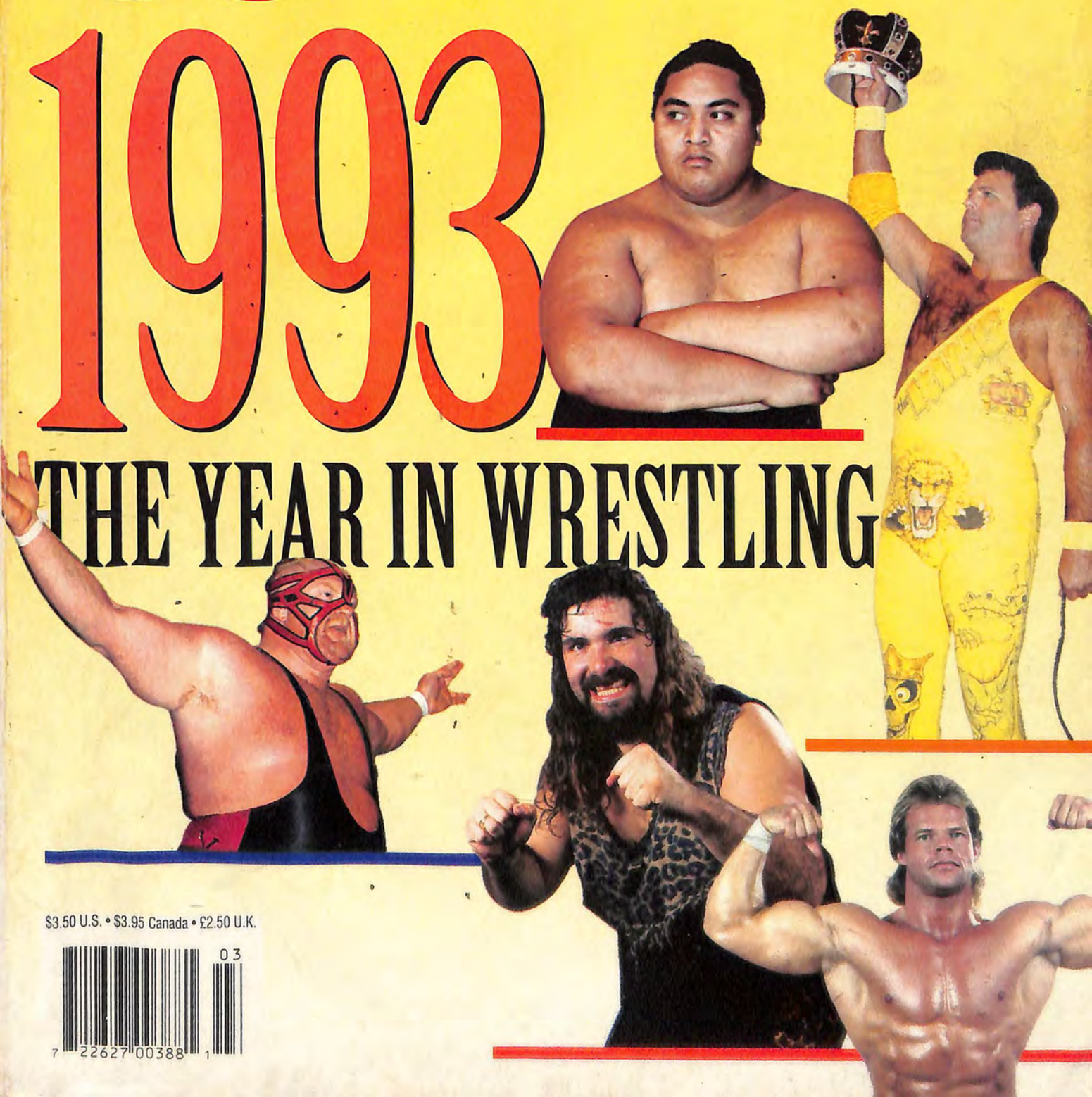
1993

THE YEAR IN WRESTLING



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MARCH 1994

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Next issue on sale January 25, 1994

between falls

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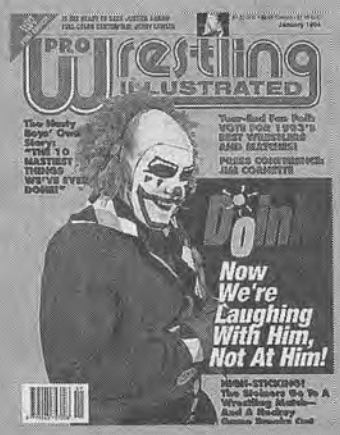
OUR FAVORITE CLOWN

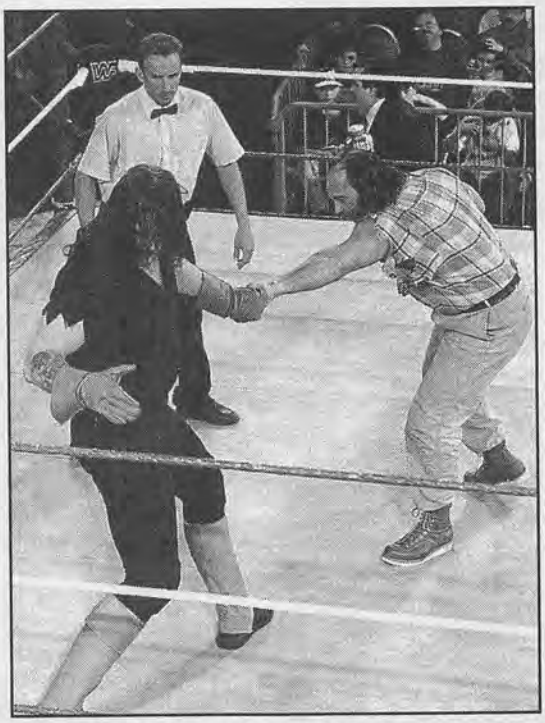


Whether as rulebreaker or fan favorite, Doink the Clown never fails to elicit comments from our readers. We reported in our January 1994 issue that the WWF jester is now playing his tricks on the federation's rulebreakers, and that drew a mixed reaction.

"So Doink is now soaking Bobby Heenan," wrote J.W. Stanton of Grand Island, Nebraska. "Isn't that something we've all wanted to do over the years?"

Sheree Peiser of Moosup, Connecticut, yearns for at least part of the earlier Doink. "I loved his old entrance music—it had such a threatening edge. If he wanted to change to fan favorite, fine, but his new music is so bland."

Albert Grissom of Bellingham, Washington, credits Jerry Lawler for Doink's change. "Jerry blaming Doink for losing to Bret Hart at SummerSlam must have been the last straw for the clown. That's obviously when he changed. My kids don't fear his antics anymore."



The Undertaker's ranking (46th) in the latest "*PWI* 500" is questioned by reader Jeff O'Farrell. He maintains Undertaker would easily defeat the likes of Chris Benoit, Owen Hart, or Eddie Gilbert, all of whom are rated higher.

RATING THE RANKING

Great job, *PWI*, on another successful "*PWI* 500" survey. I was extremely happy to see Bret Hart get the No. 1 rating he so much deserved. However, I was shocked at some of the other ratings.

The Undertaker, for example, was rated 46th. Are you saying he couldn't get past Chris Benoit, Owen Hart, or Eddie Gilbert? I don't think so. Also, Ludvig Borga was rated *under* Koko B. Ware, Dan Davis, and 2 Cold Scorpio, just to name a few. He would destroy all three in less than five minutes—all at the same time.

On the plus side, Shawn Michaels was given a good rating (third), and even though Hulk Hogan hasn't wrestled for a little while, I was really glad to see him placed high in the ratings, since he could probably be "the man" one last time if he chose to.

Overall, your analysis was once again splendid, and I already can't wait until next year.

JEFF O'FARRELL
Delphi, IN

ONE SMART CLOWN

I'm upset with some of your picks for the "*PWI* 500". I believe Doink should be in the top 15 instead of No. 26. He is one of the smartest wrestlers in the WWF. He knows every wrestling move there is.

I also believe Bam Bam Bigelow and Tatanka should be in the top 25. They need more title shots to be noticed. When you make these lists, you must think about every detail.

DANNY OSTALOWSKI
Norridge, IL

GIVE MANAGERS RESPECT...

I recently read the "*PWI* 500" and said to myself, "Why doesn't *PWI* have ratings for managers like they do for the wrestlers?" It goes to show managers get no respect for the stuff they do to get their wrestlers to the top.

It's nice to see wrestlers rated, says reader I.C. Payne, but managers such as Harley Race deserve some recognition. Payne suggests a Top 25 ranking for wrestling's managers.

Managers like Harley Race, who manages WCW World champion Big Van Vader, Paul E. Dangerously, Jim Cornette, Paul Bearer, and so many others are doing their job to make wrestling exciting. So I feel that along with the top 500 wrestlers, *PWI* should also have the Top 25 managers in wrestling, so they get the respect they deserve. And believe me, they deserve it!

I.C. PAYNE
Leola, PA

... AND WOMEN, TOO

In reading the "*PWI* 500," I noticed Miss Texas was the first female wrestler ever included in this massive ranking. While I applaud her for her determination and apparent success in what has long been deemed to be a "man's world," I find it hard to believe that the editors of *PWI* would select her to be the first woman represented in the list of 500.

I assume Texas was chosen because she wrestles men on a regular basis and therefore is eligible to be ranked among them. If my assumption is correct, this is highly unfair to the many other talented female wrestlers who have been

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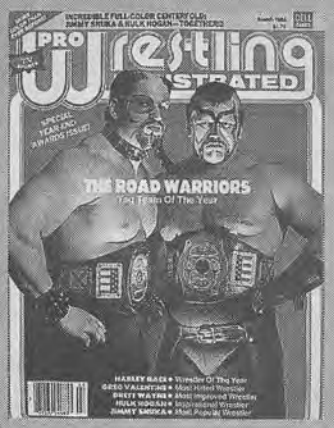
Why is Miss Texas the first woman listed in the "*PWI* 500," asks reader Stephanie Hummel. The answer is because she has regularly wrestled men like Jamie Dundee, and appeared in the USWA rankings.

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI



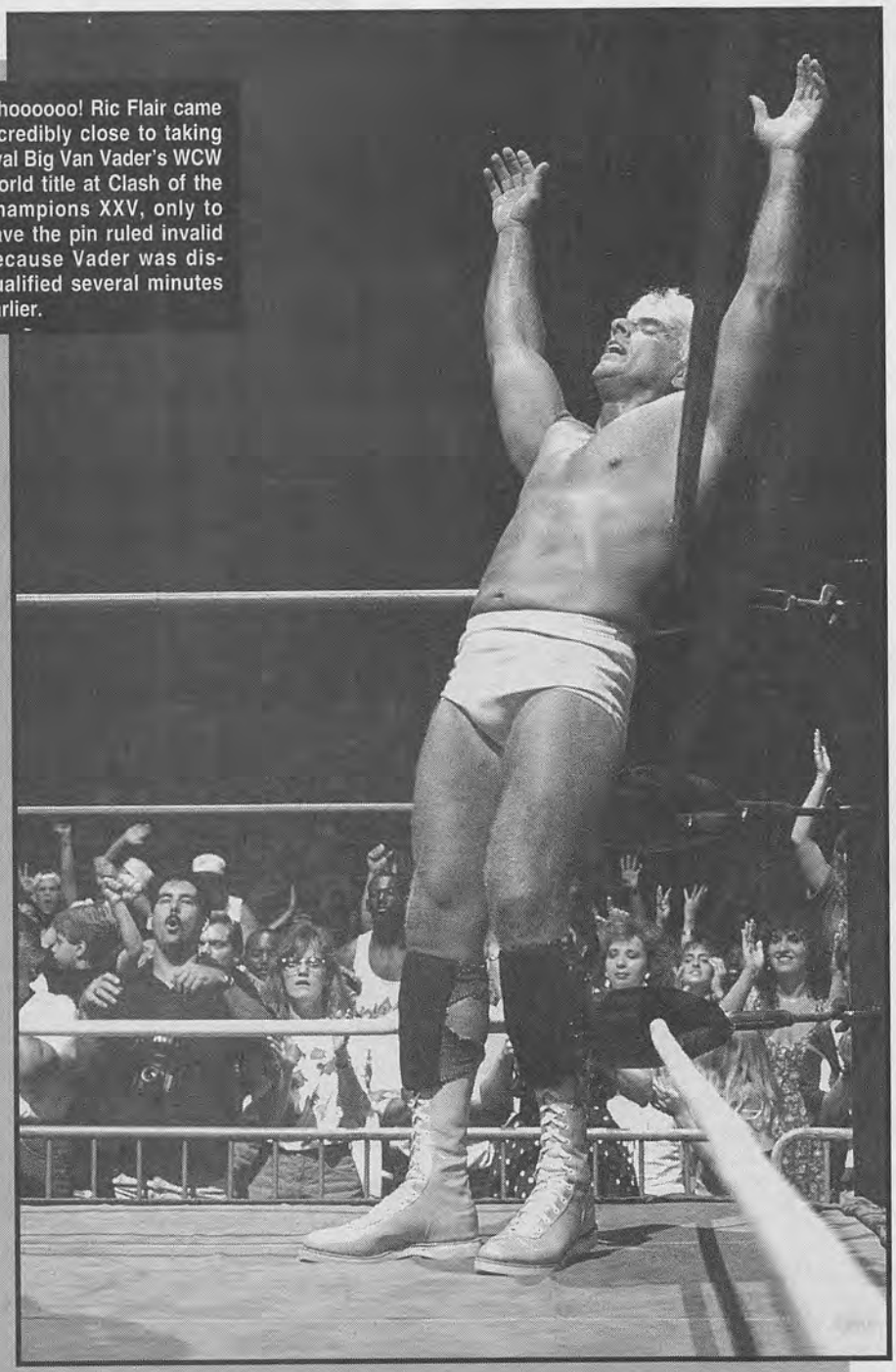
The cover of the March 1984 issue featured The Road Warriors, 1983's Tag Team of the Year as voted by *PWI* readers. Hawk and Animal had been battling such foes as Jerry and Jack Brisco, Pistol Pez Whatley and Jimmy Valiant, and Dusty Rhodes and Brett Wayne. The Warriors edged out the Von Erichs and The Freebirds in the voting, with the Briscos finishing a distant fourth. They went on to win world tag team titles in both the NWA and the WWF.

The centerfold showcased several other *PWI* Achievement Award winners, including Most Popular Wrestler of the Year Jimmy Snuka, and Inspirational Wrestler of the Year Hulk Hogan, who posed together. There were also photos of Brett Wayne, voted the year's Most Improved Wrestler, and Harley Race and Ric Flair, whose June 10, 1983, match (in which Race won his seventh NWA World title) was chosen as the best of the year.

Elsewhere in the magazine: Other year-end award winners included Greg Valentine as Most Hated, James J. Dillon as top manager, Race as Wrestler of the Year, and Angelo Mosca Jr. as best rookie. The Grand Wizard, who died on October 12, 1983, at age 54, received the *PWI* Editors' Award ... Stu Saks talked to award recipients in "Dressing Room Confidential" ... Liz Hunter recounted Mike Rotundo's surprisingly positive reaction to finishing second in Most Improved balloting.

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter



Whoooooo! Ric Flair came incredibly close to taking rival Big Van Vader's WCW World title at Clash of the Champions XXV, only to have the pin ruled invalid because Vader was disqualified several minutes earlier.

IS **RIC FLAIR** "The Man" again? He came very close to winning yet another World title at Clash of the Champions XXV in St. Petersburg, Florida. He actually pinned WCW World champion **Big Van Vader** and grabbed the belt as he began to celebrate.

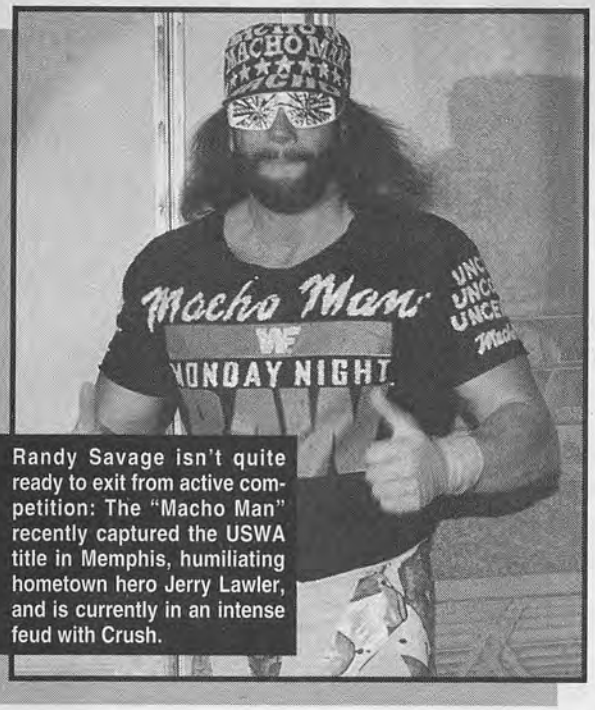
The referee, however, ruled the pinfall invalid and disqualified Vader for accidentally clotheslining him several minutes earlier. At press time, Flair was training hard for his Starrcade rematch against Vader. The "Nature Boy" has vowed to retire if he loses that bout.

Also at the Clash, **Lord Steven Regal**, with an assist from manager **Sir William**, successfully defended his TV title against **Johnny B. Badd**; **Rick Rude** retained his "title" after battling **Road Warrior Hawk** to a double-countout; and WCW World tag champs **The Nasty Boys** defeated **Sting** and **Davey Boy Smith**.

A Smith-Rude feud is heating up. Rude sneak-attacked and used his "Rude awakening" on the "British Bulldog" on the runway before the tag team title match had officially begun. Smith never fully recovered and was pinned after a double-team assault by the Nastys.

Did you hear the ovation **Dusty Rhodes** got at the Clash when he came out to second his son, **Dustin**, for his U.S. title bout against **Paul Orndorff**, who had **The Assassin** on his side?

After Dustin won the match, a brawl between Assassin and the "American Dream" broke out. Dusty attempted to remove Assassin's mask (it barely fit



Randy Savage isn't quite ready to exit from active competition: The "Macho Man" recently captured the USWA title in Memphis, humiliating hometown hero Jerry Lawler, and is currently in an intense feud with Crush.

over his face!), but Orndorff saved him and smashed Dusty with the U.S. belt. Dustin rescued his dad before Orndorff could piledrive him.

I wonder if either Assassin or Dusty (or both) will return to the ring to re-kindle that old feud full-time.

It was almost a shame to see old partners **Steve Austin** and **Brian Pillman** attack each other so spiritedly at the Clash. It was a terrific match (won by Austin thanks to **Col. Robert Parker's** interference), but how good could those **Hollywood Blonds** have been had they stayed together as a duo for the long haul?

The **Crush-Randy Savage** feud is showing no signs of ending. Several sources

(Continued on page 82)

Instead of Brian Pillman *and* Steve Austin, it turned out to be Brian Pillman *vs.* Steve Austin as the former Hollywood Blonds finally squared off at Clash XXV. Austin won, thanks to interference from manager Col. Robert Parker.

from the desk of...

Stuart M. Saks

When the great ball drops on Times Square and the drunken masses are bringing praise to the number 1-9-9-4 like some god of lights, let's step back a moment and think: *Are we cheering the passing of a year that for one reason or another failed to live up to our expectations, or are we cheering the coming of a year whose freshness revives our hopes and gives us a fighting chance to attain our dreams?*

December 31 is approaching as I write this column, and for that I am glad. Because right after December 31 comes January 1 and I can forget what I have witnessed for the past 365 days and see a calendar of blanks that I can hopefully fill in with good news.

I can't honestly say I am leaving 1993 in a good mood. Let me read to you the last three headlines for the cover stories in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* and you'll certainly understand why:

- November 15, 1993: "Vicious & Anderson Injured In Hotel Brawl"
- November 22, 1993: "Grand Jury Considers Steroid Indictment Against WWF"
- November 29, 1993: "Lawler Indicted On Rape And Sodomy Charges"

Great, juicy headlines. Stories that a lot of editors would kill for. Want to know the truth? These stories might just be great sellers (and who wouldn't want a little more money in his pocket around holiday time?), but I'd prefer to preview a big wrestling card than report that Jerry Lawler has been accused of having sexual relations with a 13-

(Continued on page 78)

yearold girl.

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the steel cage

By Chris Bernucca

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Or at least we hope so. Let's face it, fans: We are not going to remember 1993 as the best year in wrestling history. On the positive side, it will be remembered as the year in which federations began freely exchanging talent with each other. It will also be remembered as the year in which a totally deserving Bret Hart replaced a totally undeserving Hulk Hogan as the sport's most popular competitor. But there were plenty of pitfalls. To wit ...

December 30, 1992: Ron Simmons, the first black American wrestling champion, becomes the first black American wrestling ex-champion as Big Van Vader destroys him in Baltimore.

January 3, 1993: Marty Jannetty vists Sensational Sherri Martel in the hospital and apologizes for breaking a mirror over her head. Sherri offers no counter-apology for the dozens of mirrors she has broken in her life.

January 27: The beloved Andre the Giant, 46 years young, dies of a heart attack in France. Eddie Ellner's soul goes straight to hell.

February 1: Bill Watts resigns as WCW executive vice president of wrestling operations. In an entirely unrelated incident, Erik Watts plummets in the rankings.

February 18: The beleaguered Kerry Von Erich, 33 years young, dies of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Denton, Texas. His soul joins those of siblings Jack, David, Mike, and Chris.

February 22: Hulk Hogan makes a ballyhooed return to the ring on *WWF Monday Night Raw*. The press corps of Hollywood exhales a sigh of relief.

March 11: The very bellicose Dino Bravo, 44 years young and a purported prime-time player in Canada's black-market cigarette trade, dies of numerous gunshot wounds in Laval, Quebec. See, kids? Tobacco *can* kill you.

April 4: Yokozuna wins the WWF World title from Bret Hart at WrestleMania IX. Two minutes later, Mr. Fuji wins the title of the worst manager in history when he issues an impromptu challenge to Hulk Hogan, who beats Yokozuna in about 25 seconds.

April 21: WCW World champion Big Van Vader hospitalizes Cactus Jack with a power bomb to the arena floor at the Center Stage Theater in Atlanta. Jack confirms rumors that he is suffering from amnesia when he vows revenge, obviously forgetting that he is a lousy wrestler.

April 24: London Publishing moves from Rockville Centre, New York, to Ambler, Pennsylvania.

(Continued on page 12)

Nanny (Toni Adams) Simpson

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the steel cage

(Continued from page 10)

Real estate prices in suburban Philadelphia begin an irrevocable downward spiral.

May 15: Robert Gibson employs both hands in using sign language to communicate with 150 deaf children at an SMW card. Jim Cornette opts for the single-finger approach.

May 17: The Kid becomes The 1-2-3 Kid after his stunning upset of Razor Ramon. A large percentage of WWF fans have trouble saying his name.

June 13: After a 70-day layoff, Hulk Hogan loses to WWF World title to Yokozuna. Following the match, Mr. Fuji issues an open challenge to Bruno Sammartino. The Hollywood press corps issues a collective groan.

July 4: Lex Luger lands on the U.S.S. Intrepid in a helicopter and bodyslams Yokozuna. Expressing his anger, Yokozuna bodyslams the helicopter.

July 24: Nanny Simpson is revealed to be Toni Adams, putting an end to the rumors that there could actually be two women that gorgeous.

August 8: Hospitals in Puerto Rico are stocked with blood until 1997 when Carlos Colon wrestles the final match of his 27-year career against Abdullah the Butcher.

August 18: A masked behemoth called The Shockmaster comes crashing through the wall of the "Flair For The Gold" set, falls on his face, and loses his headgear, revealing his identity to WCW fans approximately two seconds after his debut.

August 19: A certain wrestling columnist turns 30 years old and spends the day pondering the stream of good fortune that has allowed him to become a wrestling columnist.

Jim Cornette

August 20: Bob Armstrong delivers consecutive piledrivers to Jim Cornette and sends him to the hospital. Forty minutes later, the hospital sends him back.

September 12: Cornette's protege, Terry Funk, defeats Armstrong to make Cornette SMW commissioner. On the undercard, Bud Selig and George Steinbrenner battle to a double-disqualification for the vacant position of baseball commissioner.

September 13: The Steiners display the value of a University of Michigan education when they agree to wrestle The Quebecers under "Province Of Quebec" rules and lose the WWF World tag team title.

September 19: Missy Hyatt simultaneously displays her true taste in men and her personal hygiene secrets when she agrees to manage The Nasty Boys.

September 27: WWF President Jack Tunney, realizing he hasn't done anything stupid in months, inexplicably strips Shawn Michaels of the Intercontinental title.

October 8: *Mr. Nanny*, Hulk Hogan's long-awaited feature film, opens in theaters across America. Alas, there are no love scenes with Toni Adams.

October 11: WWF head Vince McMahon interferes in a USWA title match between champion Jerry Lawler and Randy Savage. Lawler vows to interfere in McMahon's match against the federal government.

October 20: Hulk Hogan and Jimmy Hart pay a visit to Ric Flair at his fitness center in Charlotte, North Carolina. An impromptu press conference is held in front of the building, as all three egos cannot simultaneously fit inside.

October 28: After a hotel-room brawl between Sid Vicious and Arn Anderson in Blackburn, England, hospitalizes both wrestlers, WCW Director of Communications Mike Weber says, "It just shows that what you see in the ring is what you see in real life." Sorry, Mike, but if that were the case, Anderson would have pinned Vicious in about 25 seconds, whereupon Vicious would blame his manager for his own shortcomings. □

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13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24

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___ POWER ___ STAMINA ___ DEX

in focus

By Craig Peters

"MEAN" GENE OKERLUND

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL: 1993

Most readers have probably never heard of Ian Dury and the Blockheads, but that band released a wonderfully nutty song back in the mid-'70s called, "Reasons To Be Cheerful, Part Three." Essentially, it was a British pub-rock version of those little postcard-sized books you now see at the cash register in your local Barnes & Noble; you know the ones: "10,000 Things To Smile About," and so on.

Anyway, to try and balance out "gloom and doom" Saks' column elsewhere in this issue, I've come up with a list of some of the brighter aspects of the year just past, things that will hopefully make 1994 an even better year for the sport.

"Mean" Gene Okerlund arrives in WCW. Talk about a shift in the balance of power! I think the only stronger symbols of the WWF that WCW could sign would be Hulk Hogan or Vince McMahon himself! It will be fascinating to follow Okerlund's commentary in the months (years?) to come.

Lightning strikes the WWF. Any true fan of the sport has known of the exploits of The Lightning Kid on the independent scene for several years. His daredevil ring style has made for hundreds of exciting matches—and hundreds of predictions that the Kid would cripple himself before gaining national notoriety. Those predictions were wrong, and the Kid continues to amaze.

***Wrestling 93* goes Rulebreaker:** Now I'm certainly not the kind of guy who would find himself agreeing with Eddie Ellner's views across the board on wrestling, but I do realize that there's nothing better than what First Amendment defenders characterize as "the free and open exchange of ideas." Ellner's views are often reprehensible, but wrestling journalism as a whole is healthier for the fact that they're aired.

Missy Hyatt is back at ringside. That her wardrobe mirrors that of The Nasty Boys is an unexpected and pleasurable bonus.

***WWF Monday Night Raw* transforms viewing habits.** In the past, Saturday was the day to be watching wrestling on television. No more. *WWF Monday Night Raw* is far and away the most exciting wrestling program on television. That it's broadcast live helps the wrestlers turn their engines up a few notches, which in turn has resulted in some of the most unpredictable and remarkable wrestling on TV the sport has ever seen. Hey, TBS, listen up: *WCW Saturday Night* could learn a lot from this show!

The independents are healthier than ever. I guess this is the flip side of the "WWF and WCW talent rosters stink!" argument, sort of like viewing

the glass as half full when someone else says it's half empty. The fact of the matter is, independent wrestling is better than ever: Smoky Mountain and ECW are big-time comers, top stars are venturing out of the Big Two to wrestle on independent cards, and the fans are the ultimate beneficiaries.

Big Van Vader's moonsaults. More astonishing than those of The Great Muta, simply due to the 450 pounds that are swirling through the air. Incredible.

Wrestling's greatest feud revived. It's arguable that Jim Cornette vs. The Rock 'n' Roll Express is the greatest feud the sport has ever known. And it was revived in 1993—and then moved to the WWF, no less!

Razor Ramon captures the Intercontinental title. And erases forever the stigma of "underachiever" that has haunted him his entire career.

Lord Steven Regal claims royal lineage. Nobody believes him, of course, but the genealogical chart he provided to the October 1993 edition of *WCW Magazine* was a hoot!

Bastion Booger debuts in the WWF. Come on, let's be honest: You're grossed out by him, but hasn't he given you at least a half-dozen genuine belly laughs? Most prime-time sitcoms don't even accomplish *that!*

***Wrestle America* changes format.** If you haven't seen the "magazine within a magazine" concept yet, be sure to check it out!

Doink(s). Everywhere you turn, clowns are waiting. I admit, I was as appalled as the next guy by the idea of the WWF circus featuring clowns. How appropriate, I thought. But Doink(s) proved to be more than just a diversion to what was going on in the center ring. And the idea of a whole Survivor Series team comprised of Doinks—brilliant!

Toni Adams. And particularly the photo of her in a bubble bath that we printed as a full-page color pinup in the Winter 1993 *Wrestling USA.*

***Pro Wrestling Illustrated* moves its offices to Pennsylvania.** And takes on a new staff of enthusiastic writers and photographers while retaining most of the excellence of the New York-based staff. I look forward to working with these solid professionals for many years to come.

See you next month—er, year! □

"CLEAN" TONI ADAMS

win lose or draw

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

I AM NOT quite sure what 1993 was "The Year Of..." in wrestling. I am certain, however, what it was *not* the year of.

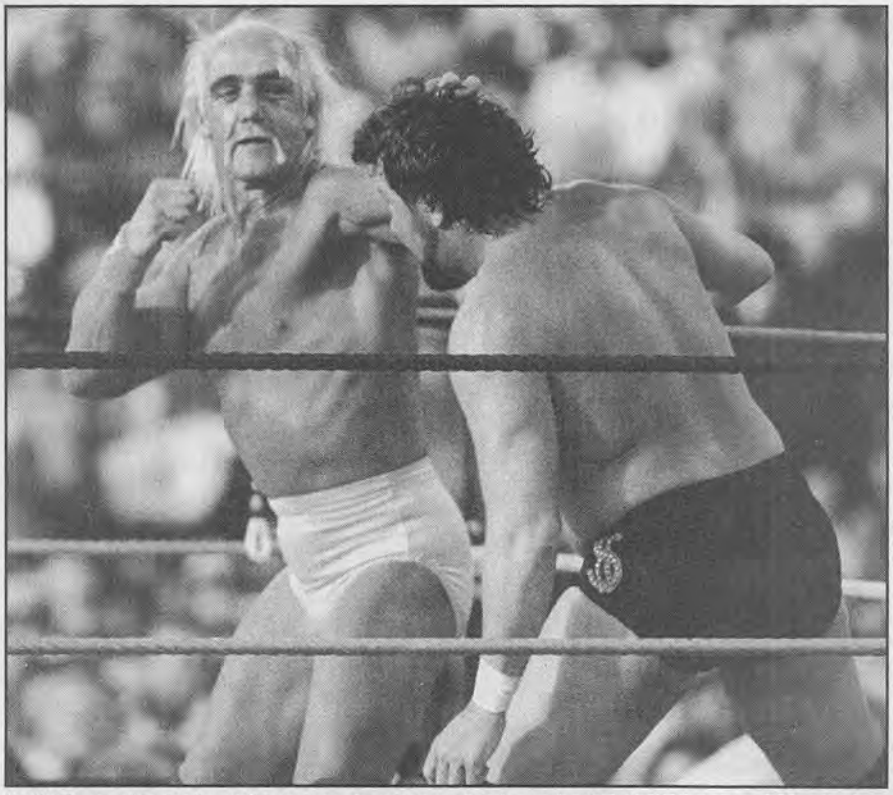
It was not the year of Hulk Hogan.

It could have been. Some may argue it should have been. But it wasn't, and a community of fans must finally accept the fact that Hogan is not as influential as he once was. In fact, he actually has become irrelevant.

Back in February, it appeared as though Hogan was going to put his stamp on 1993 in a big way. His stirring return to the ring, following Money Inc.'s attack on the returning Brutus Beefcake, was exciting and inspiring. With Jimmy Hart as their surprise managerial choice, the team of Hogan and Beefcake seemed a lock to take the World tag team belts from Money Inc. at WrestleMania IX.

Not only did they lose the title match by disqualification, they looked bad doing it. "The Immortal Hulk Hogan" didn't show up in the ring, but he could be excused; his partner had a much more severe case of ring rust. Still, his comeback had to be considered a bust.

Then along came Mr. Fuji and his newly crowned World champion, Yokozuna. Fuji stupidly challenged Hogan to an impromptu title bout. This time, the "Hulkster" of old stepped through the ropes. Thirty seconds later, he pinned Yokozuna to win his fifth World championship. In a career filled with amazing moments, this may have been the most incredible.



Hulk Hogan looked mediocre in a tag team match against Ted DiBiase and Money Inc. at WrestleMania IX, yet later that day won the WWF World title in impromptu fashion against Yokozuna. It may be Hogan's last hurrah in the WWF.

Hogan was the man again and he was in control. He had the chance to capitalize on the enormous resurgence in his popularity. He had the chance to prove that Hulkamania still meant something. So what did he do?

He sat home.

In a manner of speaking.

Hogan did not defend the title again until his rematch with Yokozuna at the King Of The Ring pay-per-view on June 13. He did wrestle The Great Muta in May in Japan, but his championship was not on the line. When the WWF embarked on its European tour immediately after WrestleMania, Hogan did not even join them, let alone defend the belt.

There was good reason for that, Hogan defenders argued. His come-

(Continued on page 80)

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off the top rope

by Eddie Ellner

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE
Box 956
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

If you want art, there's no need to travel to a prestigious museum. Just catch the next card involving The Kid, the master of the acrobatic somersault.

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

TRADITIONALLY, THIS SPACE contains a year-end summary, insisted upon by editorial decree as a way to tie 12 months of madness into one neat package. To heck with that. If you ask me, 1993 was about chaos and disorder and besides, I've spent the last three months in Venice Beach, California, where the words "neat" and "clean" are outlawed. The usual suspects, work (I'm trying to sell ***The Bill Apter Story*** *to Disney Nature Films) and love (a yoga girl twisted my heart into the lotus position), have me imprisoned in this seaside outpost of insanity. In one single stretch of beach you will find a double-amputee breakdancing on his stumps, a rollerblading Jimi Hendrix impersonator, and The Mummy Girl, who wraps her victims/clients in gauze before rendering verdicts on their souls. Wholesome family entertainment it ain't. Surprising, since two men whose names are synonymous with wholesome family entertainment both trace their roots here. Hulk Hogan waxes fondly of his Venice Beach childhood, though he may be confusing real happiness with the full head of hair he carried at the time. Hogan's soon-to-be recurring guest star on* ***Thunder In Paradise****, Sting, remembers Venice as being "full of really cool artists," leading one to question the nature of art—an appropriate response, given the nature of the first two letters.*

Nostalgic memories of the hair-raising days of a (very) young Mr. Hogan: "Whatcha gonna do when a little dab of Brylcreem comes over you?"

Dear Eddie,

I am a painter and am a bit embarrassed to admit it is only recently that I stumbled upon the world of professional wrestling. What a strange brew of people they are! While I admire the energy and passion of the combatants, I must ask the inevitable question: Is it art?

DIANA KUNCE
Rhodes, Greece

Dear Diana,

You call yourself an artist, yet have the audacity to ask such a question? Is ballet art? Do you dare question the artistry of boxing? Of gymnastics? Of theatre? Wrestling is all these things, and also embodies something a pompous, self-centered artist has trouble comprehending: talent. Wrestling skills are not obscured by a misunderstanding world. When Vader moonsaults off the top turnbuckle, or when The Kid unleashes one of his amazing somersaults, there is no room for misinterpretation. Decisions attend every artistic endeavor—what color background, what kind of paint, where to shade, where to stop. The strategy of wrestling is no different. Attack or defend? Work the knee or the elbow? Attempt the finishing maneuver, or wait? The difference between a poor wrestling decision and a lame brushstroke is the difference between a broken back and a bad painting. In light of that, turpentine head, can you still question its art?

Dear Eddie,

I am a sculptor, very much interest-

(Continued on page 84)

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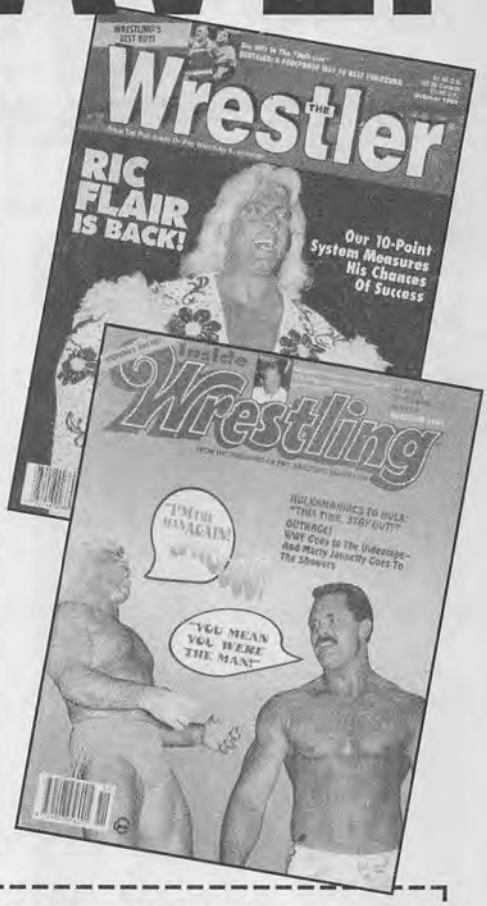
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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

PWI's Top 10

Sting

TOP 10

1 BIG VAN VADER
450, Denver, CO
(1) WCW World champion

2 YOKOZUNA
550, Samoa
(2) WWF World champion

3 RAZOR RAMON
291, Minneapolis, MN
(4) WWF Intercontinental champion

4 RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
(7) No. 4 contender: WCW World title

5 BRET HART
235, Calgary, Alberta
(6) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

6 DUSTIN RHODES
254, Austin, TX
(5) WCW U.S. champion

7 LEX LUGER
290, Chicago, IL
(8) No. 4 contender: WWF title

8 THE UNDERTAKER
320, parts unknown
(3) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

9 STING
260, Venice Beach, CA
(-) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

10 CRUSH
310, Honolulu, HI
(-) USWA Southern champion

TAG TEAMS

1 THE NASTY BOYS
Combined weight: 585 pounds
(3) WCW World tag team champions

2 RICK & SCOTT STEINER
Combined weight: 483 pounds
(4) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

3 THE HEAVENLY BODIES
Combined weight: 450 pounds
(6) No. 1 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title

4 THE HEADSHRINKERS
Combined weight: 520 pounds
(8) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

5 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
Combined weight: 453 pounds
(5) Smoky Mountain tag team champions

6 BRIAN CHRISTOPHER & JEFF JARRETT
Combined weight: 450 pounds
(-) USWA tag team champions

7 2 COLD SCORPIO & MARCUS BAGWELL
Combined weight: 460 pounds
(2) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

8 THE BRUISE BROTHERS
Combined weight: 583 pounds
(10) No. 2 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title

9 THE QUEBECERS
Combined weight: 472 pounds
(1) WWF World tag team champions

10 SCOTT & STEVE ARMSTRONG
Combined weight: 436 pounds
(9) No. 3 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title

WCW
World Champion:
BIG VAN VADER
(C) 450, Denver, CO

1—DUSTIN RHODES
(1) 254, Austin, TX
2—STING
(8) 260, Venice Beach, CA
3—RICK RUDE
(4) 246, Robbinsdale, MN
4—RIC FLAIR
(7) 243, Minneapolis, MN
5—DAVEY BOY SMITH
(-) 245, Leeds, England
6—STEVE REGAL
(5) 247, Blackpool, England
7—RICK STEAMBOAT
(2) 238, Honolulu, HI
8—STEVE AUSTIN
(-) 241 Dallas, TX
9—JOHNNY B. BADD
(-) 235, Macon, GA
10—SHOCKMASTER
(-) 407, Pittsburgh, PA

WWF
World Champion:
YOKOZUNA
(C) 550, Samoa

1—RAZOR RAMON
(1) 291, Minneapolis, MN
2—BRET HART
(3) 235, Calgary, Alberta
3—THE UNDERTAKER
(2) 320, parts unknown
4—LEX LUGER
(4) 290, Chicago, IL
5—LUDVIG BORGA
(5) 258, Helsinki, Finland
6—ADAM BOMB
(-) 294, parts unknown
7—DIESEL
(-) 356, Las Vegas, NV
8—SHAWN MICHAELS
(-) 220, San Antonio, TX
9—BASTION BOOGER
(-) 345, Saginaw, MI
10—RICK STEINER
(-) 248, Detroit, MI

GLOBAL
Global Champion:
ICEMAN PARSONS
(C) 245, St. Louis, MO

1—CHRIS ADAMS
(3) 228, Stratford, England
2—BLACK BART
(1) 261, Pampa, TX
3—AL PEREZ
(-) 239, Tampa, FL
4—MIKE DAVIS
(-) 235, Tampa, FL
5—ROD PRICE
(4) 265, Los Angeles, CA
6—ANGEL OF DEATH
(5) 310, Los Angeles, CA
7—JAKE ROBERTS
(-) 253, Stone Mountain, GA
8—SCOTT PUTSKI
(2) 235, Austin, TX
9—JOHN HAWK
(-) 280, Sweetwater, TX
10—KOKO B. WARE
(-) 229, Union City, TN

USWA
USWA Champion:
RANDY SAVAGE
(C) 245, Sarasota, FL

1—CRUSH
(-) 310, Honolulu, HI
2—JEFF JARRETT
(1) 220, Hendersonville, TN
3—JERRY LAWLER
(2) 234, Memphis, TN
4—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(4) 230, Memphis, TN
5—TONY ANTHONY
(-) 235, Bucksnort, TN
6—KOKO B. WARE
(-) 229, Union City, TN
7—DOUG GILBERT
(5) 241, Lexington, TN
8—MIKE ANTHONY
(-) 205, Calgary, Alberta
9—SPELLBINDER
(8) 246, parts unknown
10—REX HARGROVE
(-) 235, Memphis, TN

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

1 STING
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular

2 BRET HART
235, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular

3 RAZOR RAMON
291, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular

4 LEX LUGER
290, Chicago, IL
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular

5 RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular

6 DUSTIN RHODES
254, Austin, TX
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

7 DAVEY BOY SMITH
245, Leeds, England
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular

8 DOINK THE CLOWN
235, parts unknown
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

9 RANDY SAVAGE
235, Sarasota, FL
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

10 RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI
Last issue: unrated

MOST HATED

1 CRUSH
310, Honolulu, HI
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated

2 BIG VAN VADER
450, Denver, CO
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

3 YOKOZUNA
550, Samoa
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated

4 RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated

5 SHAWN MICHAELS
220, San Antonio, TX
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

6 BRIAN LEE
251, Los Angeles, CA
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

7 STEVE AUSTIN
241 Dallas, TX
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated

8 STEVE REGAL
247, Blackpool, England
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated

9 RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec
Last issue: unrated

10 PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL
Last issue: unrated

For period ended November 22, 1993

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—BIG VAN VADER .....89 points
2—BRET HART.....70 points
3—YOKOZUNA .....54 points
4—DUSTIN RHODES .....43 points
5—STING .....42 points

TAG TEAMS

1—RICK & SCOTT STEINER.....75 points
2—MONEY INC.....50 points
3—THE HOLLYWOOD BLONDS.....49 points
4—THE NASTY BOYS .....45 points
5—THE HEADSHRINKERS.....45 points

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain Champion:
BRIAN LEE
(C) 251, Los Angeles, CA

1—TIM HORNER
(1) 235, Morristown, TN

2—TONY ANTHONY
(3) 235, Bucksnort, TN

3—CHRIS CANDIDO
(4) 226, Carteret, NJ

4—TRACEY SMOTHERS
(2) 227, Atlanta, GA

5—JIM DEL RAY
(7) 234, Kingsport, TN

6—BOBBY BLAZE
(5) 222, Charlotte, NC

7—RICK MORTON
(8) 228, Memphis, TN

8—KILLER KYLE
(9) 303, Atlanta, GA

9—STEVE ARMSTRONG
(10) 224, Marietta, GA

10—ROBBIE EAGLE
(-) 225, Raleigh, NC

ECW

ECW Champion:
SABU
(C) 220, Bombay

1—TERRY FUNK
(1) 247, Amarillo, TX

2—HAWK
(-) 277, Chicago, IL

3—TASMANIAC
(-) 221, Tasmania

4—KEVIN SULLIVAN
(5) 252, Boston, MA

5—MR. HUGHES
(-) 308, Kansas City, KS

6—SALVATORE BELLOMO
(-) 240, Sicily, Italy

7—TOMMY CAIRO
(8) 257, Philadelphia, PA

8—ROCKIN' REBEL
(-) 219, Philadelphia, PA

9—TOMMY DREAMER
(-) 245, Yonkers, NY

10—JOHNNY GUNN
(-) 250, Allentown, PA

ICWA: ICWA Champion—Jumbo Barretta; **1**—Frankie Rose; **2**—Lanny Poffo; **3**—Surgeon General; **4**—Rico Fredrico; **5**—Kenny Kendall; **6**—Jammin' Johnny; **7**—Coconut Kid; **8**—Bad Boy Bradley; **9**—Bill Payne; **10**—Sid Powers.

IWCCW: IWCCW Champion—Title Vacant; **1**—Manny Fernandez; **2**—Greg Valentine; **3**—Tony Atlas; **4**—Tasmaniac; **5**—Tommy Dreamer; **6**—Ray Odyssey; **7**—Primo Carnera III; **8**—Koko B. Ware; **9**—Joe Savoldi; **10**—Hercules.

PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; **1**—Hawk; **2**—Nailz; **3**—Punisher; **4**—Jerry Lynn; **5**—Brad Rheingans; **6**—Tommy Ferrara; **7**—Derrick Dukes; **8**—Randy Gusto; **9**—Billy Blaze; **10**—Baron Von Raschke.

PWF: PWF Champion—Austin Steele; **1**—Italian Stallion; **2**—George South; **3**—Randy Sledge; **4**—Flaming Youth; **5**—Cruel Connection II; **6**—Terry Austin; **7**—Star Ryder; **8**—Black Scorpion; **9**—Gladiator II; **10**—American G.I..

SOUTHERN STATES WRESTLING: SSW Champion—Wayne Rogers; **1**—Jimmy Golden; **2**—Mike Samson; **3**—G. Q. Stratus; **4**—The Mongolian Stomper; **5**—Eddie Golden; **6**—Danny Christian; **7**—Billy Marshall; **8**—Skyfire; **9**—Keith Hart; **10**—Alex Shane.

USA: USA TV Champion—Col. DeBeers; **1**—C.W. Bergstrom; **2**—Larry Oliver; **3**—Bruiser Brian; **4**—Lou Andrews; **5**—Crush; **6**—Jesse Barr; **7**—Dane Rush; **8**—John Rambo; **9**—Silver Shadow; **10**—Karl Pope.

WWA: WWA Champion—Boy Gone Bad; **1**—Friendly Frank; **2**—Ray Odyssey; **3**—Abudah Singh; **4**—Ed the Razor; **5**—Chris Powers; **6**—Duane Gill; **7**—Akita Kaos; **8**—The Spider; **9**—Barry Hardy; **10**—Scott Vida.

WWC: WWC Universal Champion—Greg Valentine; **1**—Invader I; **2**—Ricky Santana; **3**—The Barbarian; **4**—Dusty Wolfe; **5**—Mohammed Hussein; **6**—El Bronco; **7**—La Ley; **8**—John Savage; **9**—Giant Warrior; **10**—Jose Luis Rivera.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport.This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Oh, that Doink! The clown prince of the WWF just won't go away. Ever since he entered the federation, he's confounded our ratings board. Because we knew little of his background when he appeared on the wrestling scene, we didn't know whether he'd be a serious contender.

Doink the Clown

As it turned out, Doink, who has always had somewhat of a cult following, displayed impressive technical skills and he's made frequent appearances in our WWF Top 10.

More recently, the jester's popularity became an issue. As outlined in a story in the January 1994 issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, "Now We're Laughing *With* Him, Not *At* Him," as he's targeted WWF rulebreakers **Bam Bam Bigelow**, **Luna Vachon**, and **Jerry Lawler** with his pranks.

Doink's conversion to fan favoritism hasn't, however, been complete. Due to contractual obligations, he was forced to face another WWF fan favorite, **The Kid**, several times on the federation's European tour. His reception overseas turned out to be a mixture of cheers and boos.

To further complicate the situation, the changeable Doink has occasionally journeyed to USWA country and competed there as a fan favorite. Since we've been receiving a lot of pro-Doink mail lately, we're considering his antics in Europe an aberration and have reluctantly ranked him in our Most Popular category. Stay tuned for further developments on one of the sport's most unstable personalities ...

Tag team chaos. We've heard rumors that new fan favorite **Maxx Payne** will soon be teaming with one-time arch-rival **Johnny B. Badd** as well as unpredictable madman **Cactus Jack**. Since neither of these teams has actually appeared in the ring, we're not prepared to list them in the Tag Team Top 10, but there've been plenty of other developments.

Former WCW World tag team champions **The Hollywood Blonds** recently split over a disagreement about potential manager **Col. Robert Parker**. But **Brian Pillman** and **Steve Austin** ran into the same problem as Doink when they hit the U.K.

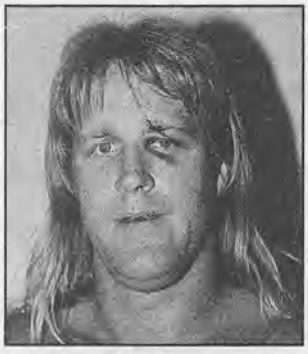
Promoters insisted they wrestle as a team because they had signed contracts to do so months earlier. As you might expect, the old chemistry they once had in the ring as World champions was missing and they had only moderate success.

The Blonds certainly no longer warrant a spot in the tag team ratings; their days as a duo are clearly behind them. Ironically, they still rank high in the cumulative ratings.

And what of this impromptu team of Smoky Mountain rivals **Tracey Smothers** and **Brian Lee**? Both have occasionally competed in the new Championship Wrestling from Indiana. The fact that both signed open contracts came back to haunt them for one night.

Smothers and Lee ended up on the same side against **Todd Morton** and **Chris Michaels**. Neither SMW standout can stand the other, but they managed to put their hatred aside for that tag team match. It took Morton and Michaels 30 minutes to score a victory in Indianapolis.

Obviously one match together (and especially a losing effort) won't earn Smothers and Lee a slot in the tag rankings.



Brian Lee

But should they make the pairing permanent in CWI (we'd bet the house against that happening), they could pull a ratings first: having a Top 10 tag team in which one member (presumably Smothers) makes the Most Popular list, while the other (most likely Lee) simultaneously finds his way onto the Most Hated list.

Perhaps that's something only Mr. Lawler and WWF newcomer **Jeff "Double J" Jarrett** could aspire to accomplish!

Is such a feat possible in wrestling? Have we done the right thing in our handling of the Doink and tag team situations? Let us know what you think about these scenarios and anything else you see in our ratings. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 956, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Section Compiled By Dave Rosenbaum

In 1992, professional wrestling suffered from a great deal of negative publicity concerning steroid and sex abuse charges. In 1993, the sport healed its wounds somewhat by providing a non-stop year of peak action.

In the WWF, Yokozuna established himself as a dominant World champion, despite losing by countout to Lex Luger at SummerSlam '93. With Mr. Fuji and Jim Cornette in his corner, the 550-pound Samoan showed he'll be very tough to beat.

But Hulk Hogan also grabbed his usual share of the spotlight. He unretired in February after Brutus Beefcake was attacked by Money Inc. and formed an improbable alliance with Jimmy Hart. The Megamaniacs lost to Money Inc. in the co-main event at WrestleMania IX, but Hogan came back later in the card to win the World title.

When Hogan left for Hollywood and Japan, the fans needed a new hero. They found Lex Luger, who embraced the fans at the "Stars And Stripes Challenge" when he bodyslammed Yokozuna. Luger went on his "Lex Express" tour and held a celebration at SummerSlam ... despite failing to win the World title from Yokozuna.

The controversy never stopped in WCW. Should the federation have suspended, or at least fined, World champion Big Van Vader for his felonious attacks on several contenders, including Cactus Jack? Would The Four Horsemen reunite? The answer was yes, but in a different form. What was the actual name of that belt Rick Rude, and earlier Ric Flair, wore? And should WCW have sanctioned the "Spin The Wheel, Make The Deal" match between Vader and Jack at Halloween Havoc?

In both federations, fans couldn't tell the rulebreakers from the fan favorites without a scorecard. The hated Razor Ramon became incredibly popular (and also won the Intercontinental title). Doink the Clown, master of deception, if not comedy, somehow won over the fans. Brian Pillman turned against partner Steve Austin, breaking up The Hollywood Blonds. Finally, Sid Vicious turned his back on manager Col. Robert Parker.

Independent federations were at the center of attention in 1993. In Smoky Mountain Wrestling, Jim Cornette goaded Commissioner Bob Armstrong back into the ring and eventually won the commissionership. The Louisville loudmouth was impeached less than a month after he took office. But Cornette, through The Heavenly Bodies, renewed his feud with The Rock 'n' Roll Express and kept the federation rocking.

Randy Savage, a WWF employee, won the USWA title. Bret Hart, Owen Hart, Doink the Clown, Crush, Tatanka, Papa Shango, Sensational Sherri, Luna Vachon, Koko B. Ware, and The Undertaker also made appearances in the USWA. Toni and Chris Adams took their marital problems public; Toni posed as Nanny Simpson and hounded her ex-husband until her true identity was revealed. ECW's violent brand of wrestling made new fans in Philadelphia, hosting Paul E. Dangerously and his Dangerous Alliance.

As the year wound down, the WWF was being investigated by a U.S. grand jury on allegations of illegal distribution of steroids. A cloud once again hangs over the sport, but there's always the action. There's always the ring.

1993 SAW the death of three of wrestling's greatest stars. Andre the Giant, 46, died of a heart attack on January 27 while visiting France to attend the funeral of his father. Kerry Von Erich, 33, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound on February 18. Dino Bravo, 44, was murdered while sitting in the living room of his Laval, Quebec, home. In three months, the mat community mourned the passing of three outstanding wrestlers.

1993 SAW the emergence of two big men as the kings of their federations. Yokozuna's weight ballooned from 450 pounds in January to 550 pounds by August, but he dominated the federation after regaining the belt from Hulk Hogan on June 13. The 6'5", 450-pound Big Van Vader lost the WCW World title to Sting on March 11, but regained it on March 17. Both Yokozuna and Vader also injured several contenders.

1993 SAW the arrival of inter-federation matches involving the WWF, SMW, the USWA, and ECW. Jerry Lawler was a fan favorite in Memphis, but a hated rulebreaker in the WWF for his feud with the Hart family. Interference by WWF head Vince McMahon cost Lawler his USWA title. Meanwhile, Jim Cornette did business in SMW and the WWF, as did The Heavenly Bodies, his number-one tag team. It was a breakthrough year.

1993 SAW saw the unlikely pairing of Hulk Hogan and Sting when Sting agreed to appear in several episodes of *Thunder In Paradise*, Hogan's syndicated action-adventure series. The show has been picked up by most TV markets throughout America and is scheduled to debut this spring. Hogan and Sting also had a highly publicized *tete a tete* after a card in Japan. They spoke for several hours in this "Superstar Summit."

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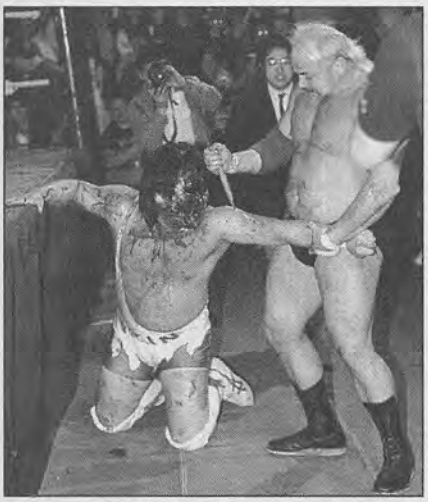
...AND THIS IS HOW WE EAT SUSHI IN AMERICA

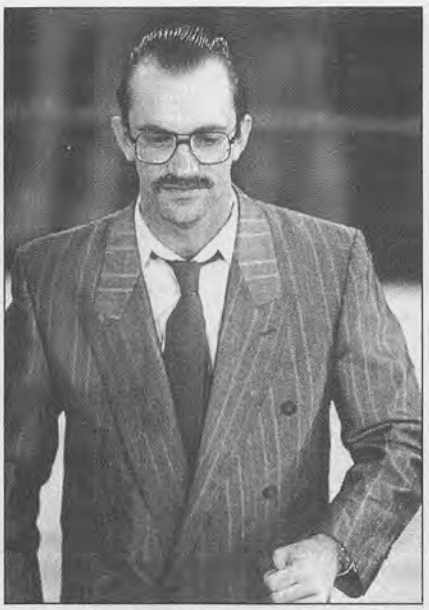
Perennial madman (that means he's incurable) Kevin Sullivan took sadism to new heights this year by taking wrestling to new lows. After grossing

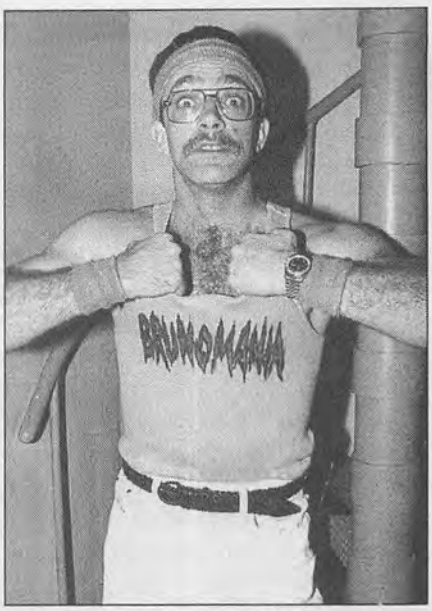


out everyone by stabbing Brian Lee 44 times with a spike, Sullivan used this very utensil again on Japanese wrestler Yukihiro Kanemura. When Sullivan was finished, Kanemura needed 10 stitches in his head and 58 more in his arm.

HEAVENLY!

It was a very good year for Jim Cornette and Heavenly Bodies Jim Del Ray and Tom Prichard, but there were a few down moments.





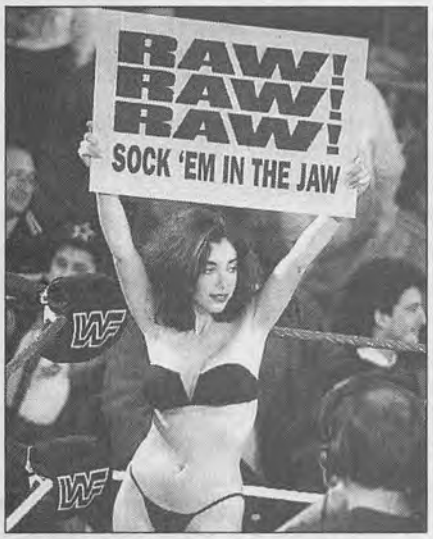
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY! IT'S A BIRD! IT'S A PLANE! NO, IT'S NOT-SO-MILD-MANNERED MANAGER HARVEY WIPPLEMAN TURNING HIMSELF INTO NOT-SO-MILD-MANNERED WRESTLER HARVEY WIPPLEMAN WHILE DOING NOTHING ABOUT THAT NOT-SO-GOOD PHYSIQUE

Harvey Wippleman is capable of some amazing transformations—like being a wrestler one day and a manager the next—but he can't transform himself into a sex symbol, or turn Giant Gonzales into a star. Wippleman had better gain Superman's strength if he hopes to come out of this feud alive!

IT'S CALLED FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

Jerry "The King" Lawler got a taste of his own medicine on May 3 in Memphis. Lawler, defending the USWA title against Papa Shango, threw fire at his foe during the match. But Shango got revenge. Later, he threw fire at Lawler and pinned him for the belt. Lawler should have thought better about his methods of dealing with the voodoo expert.

MAMA ALWAYS SAID, THERE'S SOMEBODY OUT THERE FOR EVERYONE



THE GIRL ON THE LEFT USES DEAL-A-MEAL; THE GIRL ON THE RIGHT SENDS OUT FOR PIZZA

WWF Monday Night Raw, wrestling's hottest TV newcomer in 1993 and biggest hit, presented the good, the bad, the thin, the fat, the pretty, and the ugly. The WWF was an equal opportunity employer on *Raw,* hiring ring girls on the basis of personality, not looks (we guess), and even giving The Kid his 15 minutes of stardom. Ring card girls, previously seen only in boxing rings, weren't the only reason to watch *Raw.* Week after week, some of the hottest action in wrestling took place on USA Network's sometimes-live, sometimes-taped broadcasts from the Manhattan Center and other suitably seedy venues.

GOLD CHAINS, NO BRAINS

"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony caused a stir in Smoky Mountain Wrestling—and feuded with Tracey Smothers—after claiming he was no longer a Tennessean and belittling the South every chance he got. Anthony's Yankee act was unconvincing, however; he did not know a thing about life above the Mason-Dixon line and later denied his northern existence. But since Anthony professes to be a New York Yankees fan, we have a few trivia questions for him:

1. Who was the Yankee Clipper?
2. What was Murderers' Row?
3. Who says "Holy cow!" and calls himself "Scooter"?
4. What did George Steinbrenner call Dave Winfield after Winfield's post-season failures?
5. What was the last year a Steinbrenner team reached post-season play?

We'll take one out of five, Tony.

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED 1993 ACHIEVEMENT

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

QUOTABLES '93

"I'm here on a mission. The first order of business is to right the wrong that Money Inc. did to Brutus Beefcake."

—Hulk Hogan on *WWF Monday Night Raw*, February 22, 1993

"To me, this [WWF belt] is a toy, like a Christmas tree ornament. The WWF belt is like a Honda. The IWGP belt is like a Rolls-Royce. It's the real world championship belt."

—Hulk Hogan, who has won titles in both federations, after defeating The Great Muta in Tokyo, May 3, 1993

"Vince McMahon is a coward. He always has been and he always will be. When I first went to the WWF, I told people how gutless WWF wrestlers are. Well, let me correct myself. Vince McMahon is more of a coward than any of the men who wrestle there."

—Jerry Lawler, after McMahon started interfering in his matches

"The only thing I'm worried about is whether Bob will get a fair price on his little rundown shack of a house when he has to leave. Ha ha!"

—Jim Cornette, on former SMW Commissioner Bob Armstrong, before Armstrong dropped a loser-leaves-SMW match

"Beau don't know wrestling!"

—Scott Steiner, on Beau Beverly of The Beverly Brothers

"Andre was a giant gentleman. His heart was as big as his body. He was good to everyone."

—Frenchie Bernard, Andre the Giant's longtime friend and business associate, after Andre's death

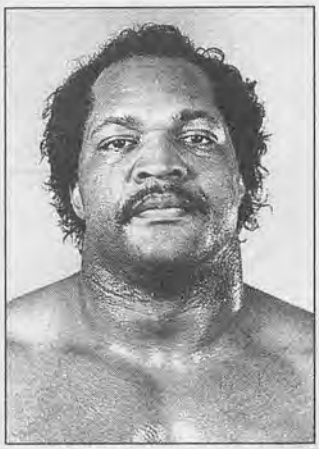
"Hogan, Hogan, you big man. Bow Yokozuna. Hogan, my Yokozuna issue a challenge. If you have any intestinal fortitude, you'll accept my Yokozuna's challenge. C'mon, you yellow belly, c'mon. We will put up the new WWF belt right now. Let's go."

—Mr. Fuji, manager of new WWF World champion Yokozuna for 2 minutes 7 seconds, before Hulk Hogan defeated Yokozuna for the belt at WrestleMania IX, April 4, 1993

"What you are is a cancer on the WWF. Everybody wants to know what's wrong with America. There's nothing wrong with America. What's wrong with America is blood-sucking leeches like you. An overstuffed, sushi-eating, rice-chomping wrestler we call a champion. He's a disgrace to the World Wrestling Federation."

—Lex Luger on Yokozuna at the "Stars And Stripes Challenge," July 4, 1993

"I lost the title and then I got hurt. As soon as I was healthy, they should have given me another shot at Vader ... But when I got hurt in a little match, WCW treated me like a stepchild. No former WCW champion has been dissed as bad as I have."



—Ron Simmons, speaking to Senior Writer Chris Bernucca in "Hotseat," *Inside Wrestling*, September 1993

"I don't think about these things. History is for dead people."

—Ric Flair, speaking to Liz Hunter in "On Assignment," *Inside Wrestling*, September 1993

"Michael Jordan has nothing on me. He can move with that basketball, he can shake and fly and dunk that baby down, but I'll go higher than him any day of the week."

—2 Cold Scorpio, speaking to Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum in "Hotseat," *Inside Wrestling*, May 1993

"He said he felt that he'd never worked his way through the grief of the loss of his brothers."

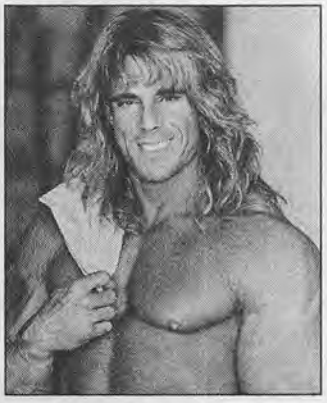
—Promoter Grey Pierson, on the death by suicide of Kerry Von Erich, in the Dallas *Morning News*

"I can beat him with my eyes closed. He couldn't even lace my boots up."

—Hulk Hogan, speaking about Bret Hart in the Rockford (Illinois) *Register Star*

"And when I retire, they're gonna say one of two things. 'There goes Harley Race, the greatest wrestler of all-time,' or 'There goes Harley Race, the greatest manager of all-time.' In fact, maybe they'll say both."

—Harley Race, in "Press Conference," *PWI,* November 1993



"You make yourself happy. It's not up to anybody else. It's up to you. But you give up a lot in being successful. You make sacrifices. It's a cutthroat world, and to survive you have to be a warrior. You have to stand alone and turn your back on people you thought were your friends."

—The Ultimate Warrior, on his new life away from the ring

"He was lucky the first time. One one-thousandth of an inch either way and the impact is on his spine; permanent paralysis could have been caused. As it was, his injuries were severe. He suffered a concussion and partial memory loss. That means his brain was jarred."

—Dr. Rich McNally, an orthopedic surgeon from Atlanta, on Cactus Jack's injuries at the hands of Big Van Vader

"The King is dead! Long live the Burger King!"

—Message on a package sent by a fan to Jerry Lawler

"She's their escort! What a perfect job for Missy Hyatt! She's running an escort service!"

—WCW TV analyst Jesse Ventura, on Halloween Havoc, after discovering that Missy Hyatt is The Nasty Boys' escort.

"I had a great time. Funk dug into me and I dug into him. I bled. It was great."

—Eddie Gilbert, after his "Texas chain massacre" match against Terry Funk in Philadelphia in June

"You see what Hillary is planning to do to turn around the country. I plan to do the same here. Hillary and I are both trying to fix the mistakes of a lot of stupid men."

—Tammy Fytch, SMW manager, on her long-term plans

"I'm doing something I've always wanted to do. I'm going to beauty school."

—Sherri Martel, speaking to Senior Editor Bill Apter, in "Q & A," *The Wrestler,* November 1993

"Before long, New York City will be the capital of Tennessee."

—Tennessee-born "Dirrty White Boy" Tony Anthony, after declaring war on the South

"Weddings, birthday parties, bar mitzvahs, I don't care. While the rest of the family is celebrating, we're going to be having it out. This could've just ended, but I don't take kindly to my own flesh and blood throwing fire at me."

—Doug Gilbert, on his feud with brother Eddie Gilbert

"Who's the man?"

—WCW World champion Big Van Vader, constantly

"You never know, maybe we'll both be up for Emmys if this whole thing works out."

—Sting, on his co-starring role with Hulk Hogan in the TV show *Thunder In Paradise*

"Allegations about me by some individual are completely and totally false, and I will prove them false if need be in a court of law."

—Jerry Lawler, on being charged with the sodomy and rape of a 13-year-old girl in Louisville, Kentucky, November 15, 1993

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED 1993 ACHIEVEMENT

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

CAMPAIGN RULE NO. 1:
ALWAYS KNOW WHAT THE OTHER GUY IS DOING

Suddenly a fan favorite after bodyslamming Yokozuna on the Fourth of July, Lex Luger went on his "Lex Express" bus tour of the United States and met his people, including the official mascot of the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves and Philadelphia mayor Ed Rendell. Luger signed autographs, shook hands, and somehow found time to train for his SummerSlam '93 match against WWF World champion Yokozuna. Meanwhile, Jim Cornette was working behind-the-scenes to ensure Luger got one—and only one—shot at Yokozuna. So while the fans cheered Luger's countout victory at SummerSlam, Cornette and Fuji quietly celebrated. Their man still had the belt.

JUST ASK MISSY: MEN ARE BACK

It takes a strong man to turn down Missy Hyatt, but Ric Flair found it within his heart. Hyatt, then a commentator on WCW broadcasts, unsuccessfully tried several times to interview "Slick Ric" upon his return to WCW. Ric was too slick and Missy never got her man. So, in a classic example of settling for sloppy seconds, she surprisingly showed up as manager of The Nasty Boys and piloted them to the WCW World tag team title. As press time, Flair was still beltless.

CAN THIS MARRIAGE BE SAVED?

In 1992, we sadly witnessed the breakup of wrestling's first couple, when Randy Savage announced that he was divorced from Elizabeth. In 1993, we watched in complete shock as Chris and Toni Adams took their private lives and marital problems public ... and with stunning frequency. Things came to a head when Toni doubled as Nanny Simpson and became Brian Christopher's maid. Chris exposed Nanny and the sparks really started to fly. Chris and Toni eventually vowed to stop airing their dirty laundry, but that vow was about as hollow as the one they took years earlier.

HERE'S THE AMAZING PART: THEY KNEW EXACTLY HOW MUCH TAR AND FEATHERS THEY'D NEED!

Stan Lane and manager Jim Cornette have spent a good portion of their careers tormenting The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Tom Prichard joined the fun last spring as The Heavenly Bodies renewed Cornette's feud with Rick Morton and Robert Gibson. Here's Morton, looking like Big Bird rolling through a road crew.

SEND IN THE CLOWNS
Doink and Doink II were inseparable and indistinguishable for most of the year as they perpetrated evil after evil upon WWF fans and fan favorites. But when Doink became a fan favorite—and changed his entrance music—Doink II refused to follow. He packed his bags and became "The Evil Clown" on the independent circuit.

SORRY, HUSSEIN'S PALACE IS DOWN THE BLOCK
WrestleMania IX at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas had a distinctively Roman flavor. Ring announcer Howie Finkel called himself "Finkus Maximus" for the day. Toga-clad Bobby Heenan obviously had the wrong idea; he rode in on a camel, leading us to wonder if he had the wrong address.

WONDERFUL, BEAUTIFUL, MARVELOUS ME!
Lex Luger loved himself long before the rest of the world loved him back. Even these four women couldn't steal the "Narcissist's" admiring glances.

BUY ME SOME PEANUTS AND FISH 'N' CHIPS
This isn't cricket, but "British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith sang "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" during the seventh-inning stretch in Detroit when the Tigers faced the California Angels. "I had a great time doing it," said Smith, who nonetheless has no plans to quit his day job and pursue a singing career.

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED 1993 ACHIEVEMENT

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

NUMBERS '93

1 was the number of women in the "*PWI* 500": Miss Texas.

2:07 was the length in minutes and seconds of Yokozuna's first WWF World title reign.

15 minutes was how much time Atsushi Onita and Terry Funk had before the barbed-wire ring they were wrestling in blew up. Both survived the explosion.

17 was how many empty bullet shell casings police found on the floor of Dino Bravo's living room after he was shot and killed gangland-style on March 11.

50 was how many pounds WWF World champion Yokozuna added for his match against Lex Luger at SummerSlam.

68 was how many stitches it took to close wounds in Yukihiro Kanemura's head and arm after getting jabbed with a spike by Kevin Sullivan.

100 was the number of stitches Rod Price needed after Chris Adams tore his hair weave during a Global Wrestling Federation card in Dallas.

215-540-0146 is the new number for faxing results to *PWI Weekly*. London Publishing moved its base of operations from Rockville Centre, New York, to Ambler, Pennsylvania, in the spring.

$274.70 was the average cost for a wrestling fan to receive all 10 WCW and WWF pay-per-view events in 1993.

$500 and a 45-day suspension was given to "Diamond" Timothy Flowers for piledriving manager Johnny Flash three times after a match.

$1,000 was the amount offered by Ted DiBiase to anyone at a WWF card in Montreal who could lift Yokozuna. Ten people tried; 10 failed. It was also the amount Tony Anthony was fined for a series of attacks on Tracey Smothers.

3,500 was the attendance for WCW's first appearance in New York, at Madison Square Garden's Paramount Theater on April 14.

$5,000 was the prize collected by "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony for successfully defending the SMW TV title five consecutive times.

8,000 people were turned away for a Mexican AAA card at the Los Angeles Sports Arena on August 28. The attendance was more than 17,000.

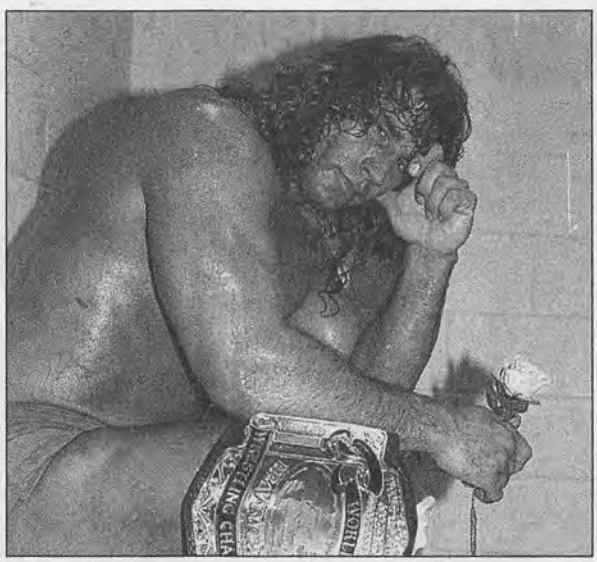
$20,000 was the bounty placed on Tracey Smothers by Kevin Sullivan.

55,000 was the attendance at Japan's Fukuoka Dome for a match on May 3 between Hulk Hogan and The Great Muta.

YOU KNOW, THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION

Rick Rude has this thing about going after other wrestlers' women. In the WWF, Rude had a celebrated feud with Jake Roberts after making lewd remarks to Jake's wife, Cheryl. Things turned nasty and Rude eventually painted Cheryl's likeness onto his tights. In WCW this year, Rude had a celebrated feud with Ric Flair, *then* made lewd remarks to Flair's companion, Fifi. Things turned nasty and Rude painted Fifi's likeness onto his tights.

IF YOU DON'T EAT YOUR MEAT, YOU CAN'T HAVE ANY PUDDING. HOW CAN YOU HAVE ANY PUDDING IF YOU DON'T EAT YOUR MEAT?



REMEMBER HIM AS A CHAMPION

The latest Von Erich family tragedy occurred on February 18, when Kerry Von Erich died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest. Kerry, a former NWA World and World Class champion, was the third son of Fritz and Doris Von Erich to commit suicide and the fifth to die. The lone survivor is Kevin Von Erich, who has vowed to live on.

AND THE WINNER IS ... THE MAN ON THE STRETCHER!

Jim Cornette may not look like a winner, but he had a big edge in his feud with former Smoky Mountain Commissioner Bob Armstrong. "Bullet Bob" had been SMW commissioner until Cornette and several of his men attacked him during a steel cage bout, sending him to the hospital. Armstrong resigned his post and acquired a wrestling license so he could seek revenge on Cornette. He dominated the feud—and at one point piledrived Cornette and sent him to the hospital. When both Cornette and Armstrong expressed interest in the vacated commissioner's post, Armstrong agreed to wrestle Cornette's protege, Terry Funk, for the job. Funk won and Cornette became commissioner, but only for a few weeks until the SMW board impeached him. When Armstrong lost a loser-leave-SMW match to Black Ninja, representing Cornette, a masked man named "The Bullet" started appearing on SMW cards.

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED 1993 ACHIEVEMENT

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

INJURY REPORT '93

•**Bob Armstrong,** former SMW commissioner, broke several ribs in an attack by Jim Cornette and The Heavenly Bodies on May 9 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Armstrong resigned as commissioner and got a wrestling license.

•**Riki Choshu** suffered a broken bone around the rim of his right eye after getting elbowdropped by Kengo Kimura on May 28 in Tokyo.

•**Crush** was sidelined with a variety of injuries as the result of a damaging feud with WWF World champion Yokozuna.

•**Terry Gordy** was hospitalized in Japan in late-August with an undisclosed illness. Gordy became ill on a plane going to Japan and checked into the hospital when he arrived at Narita Airport. He was forced out of his match against Triple Crown champion Mitsuhara Misawa.

•**Van Hammer** tore a muscle in his right arm and was forced to pull out of his arm-wrestling contest against Tony Atlas at Clash of the Champions XXII on January 13, 1993. Hammer missed several months.

•**Curt Hennig** suffered a knee injury while wrestling Razor Ramon on February 6 in Boston.

•**Cactus Jack** suffered a severe concussion and periodic bouts of amnesia after getting power-bombed onto a concrete floor by Big Van Vader on April 21 in Atlanta. Jack was sidelined for five months.

•**Nikita Koloff** was sidelined with a hernia and neck pain in early-January. Koloff said he suffered the injury in a match against Big Van Vader on November 8, 1992. At press time, he had not returned to action.

•**Jushin Liger** sustained a broken left leg in a match against 2 Cold Scorpio on June 12 in Chigasaki, Japan. Liger and Scorpio were competing in the "Best Of The Junior Heavyweights" tournament.

•**Shawn Michaels,** former WWF Intercontinental champion, suffered a separated right shoulder during a six-man tag team match on March 22 at the Manhattan Center in New York.

•**Dallas Page** suffered a torn rotator cuff while teaming with Vinnie Vegas in a match against Shanghai Pierce and Tex Slazenger in early-January and is just now returning to mat action.

•**Brian Pillman** suffered a broken right ankle in a match against Mark Starr and Frankie Lancaster on August 9 at Atlanta's Center Stage Theater. Pillman missed nearly two months.

•**Dustin Rhodes,** current WCW U.S. champion, suffered a separated right shoulder during WCW's spring tour of Europe.

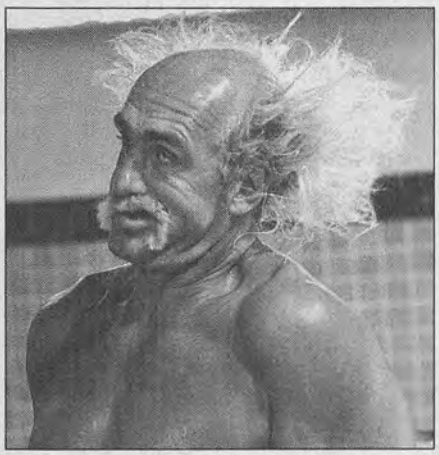
•**Luna Vachon** broke her left wrist while wrestling Sensational Sherri Martel on a WWF card in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on June 30. Vachon was able to perform her managerial duties, and was able to wrestle by August.

•**Big Van Vader,** WCW World champion, suffered from serious back problems and a herniated disk throughout the year, but did not spend any time away from the ring, despite doctors' orders.

•**Jesse Ventura,** WCW TV analyst, missed his broadcasting duties for Slamboree '93 due to a blood clot in his leg. Ventura was placed under doctor's supervision and did not miss any subsequent assignments.

•**Barry Windham,** former NWA champion, was hindered by left knee ailments throughout the year. It is the general consensus that Windham lost the belt because Ric Flair concentrated his attack on that knee.

DREAM BLIND DOUBLE-DATE
The Mongolian Mauler learned a lot from Abdullah the Butcher, but we have two questions: What language did they speak and who ate the chalk?



MOST SHOCKING EVENT OF THE YEAR. GET IT? NYUCK! NYUCK!
Actually, the most shocking event of the decade would be Hulk Hogan getting a positive review for one of his film efforts. *Mr. Nanny,* his latest release, was panned by critics and didn't do much better at the box office.

HEARTLESS-TO-HART
Jerry Lawler's feud with Bret Hart started when Hart won the "King Of The Ring" tournament and refused to kiss Lawler's feet; it eventually involved the entire Hart family, including parents Helen and Stu. Showing absolutely no respect for the elderly, the Memphis monarch repeatedly berated Mr. and Mrs. Hart and usually crossed the lines of decency. Lawler, displaying absolutely no self-respect, tried to get out of his SummerSlam match against Bret by pretending to have been injured in an automobile accident. Lawler absolutely infuriated the usually mild-tempered "Hitman," whose win over Lawler was reversed after he refused to break his famed "sharpshooter" leglock.

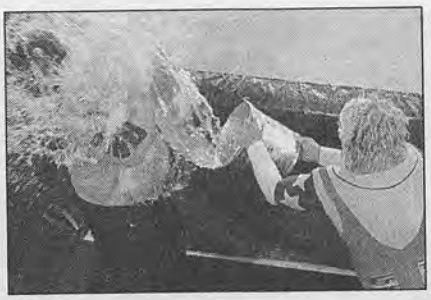
SURELY, THE SHEIK DIDN'T TEACH HIM *THIS*
With a spectacular array of aerial maneuvers, and a flair for the violent, Sabu, a Sheik protege, made a name for himself in ECW and became a favorite of the fans, though not necessarily a fan favorite.

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED 1993 ACHIEVEMENT

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

SEND IN THE CLOWNS (DON'T BOTHER, THEY'RE HERE)

Doink the Clown completed his transformation from rulebreaker to fan favorite by dumping a bucket of water over Bobby Heenan during a *WWF Monday Night Raw* broadcast. Heenan thought there was shredded paper in Doink's bucket. He was wrong ... and



THEY'RE ALL CRAZY! EVERY ONE OF THEM!

Although wrestling usually brings out the best in its athletes, the rigors of day-to-day competition and intense feuds often bring out the worst in those close to the edge. Jerry "The King" Lawler couldn't stand the sight of a cardboard Burger King hat. Maybe it reminded him of the WWF fans who call him "Burger King." Terry Funk gave Abdullah the Butcher a chance to try on some unusual headgear. As Dear Abby might say, we recommend counseling.

AND WASN'T THE WORLD JUST WAITING FOR ...

... Doink II?
... Doink III?
... the report by the U.S. Attorney's office on its investigation of illegal steroid distribution in the WWF?
... *Mr. Nanny*?
... Missy Hyatt to fall out of that black number she wore on Clash of the Champions XXV?
... Scissors fights in English hotels?
... Flash Flannigan?
... rap 'n' wrestling?
... the WCW/NWA title confusion?

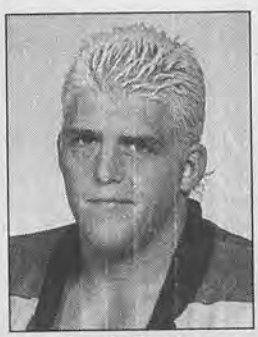
IN MEMORIAM

Andre the Giant	Don Kent
Dino Bravo	Joe McHugh
Rip Collins	Oro
Rufus R. Jones	D.J. Peterson
Wally Karbo	Kerry Von Erich

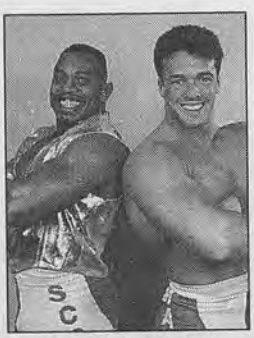
MISSING IN ACTION

Jim Backlund	Lanny Poffo
Berzerker	Ivan Putski
Bobo Brazil	Butch Reed
Danny Davis	Repo Man
Earthquake	Skinner
Bobby Eaton	Sgt. Slaughter
Jim Garvin	Dan Spivey
Michael Hayes	Jules Strongbow
Hercules	Pat Tanaka
Hulk Hogan	John Tatum
Nikita Koloff	Typhoon
Stan Lane	Greg Valentine
Money Inc.	Jimmy Valiant
Max Moon	Kevin Von Erich
The Mountie	Cry Baby Waldo
One Man Gang	Ultimate Warrior
Steve O	Larry Zbyszko
Roddy Piper	Tom Zenk

1994 SHOULD BE THEIR YEAR

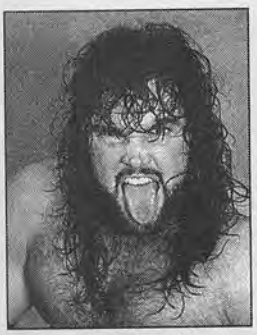


Dustin Rhodes

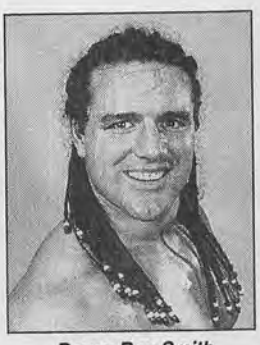


Scorpio & Bagwell

Jeff Jarrett



Adam Bomb



Davey Boy Smith

PWI ACHIEVEMENT '93 AWARDS

The ballots have been cast and counted, and the results are in. Wrestling's experts, you, the fans, have spoken. Winners have been chosen in 11 important categories. On the pages that follow, we proudly present your choices for the PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED Achievement '93 awards!

THE YEAR 1993 was a significant one for the mat sport, and PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED was there to bring you every bit of it. The tension, drama, excitement, and laughter of an amazing 12 months is reflected in the choices for the 1993 Achievement Awards, as more than 70,000 readers cast votes in 11 categories. For Rookie of the Year there was no clear choice; the winner, Vampire Warrior, received the lowest vote total of any Achievement Award winner. Yokozuna, on the other hand, was the runaway winner in the Most Improved category. Oddly enough, we did not even list the WWF World champion as a nominee on our ballot in the January 1994 issue.

The man who nearly captured the title from Yokozuna at SummerSlam, Lex Luger, was a double-winner, garnering top honors as Most Popular Wrestler of the Year and taking the Comeback of the Year award. Though he enjoyed a comfortable margin of victory for Comeback, he was nearly edged out in the Most Popular category by last year's winner, his old WCW partner/rival, Sting.

There were a lot of guys wrestling fans couldn't stand this year, and that made the voting for Most Hated very close. Jerry "The King" (or "Burger King") Lawler took the dubious prize, but he received a lot of competition from WCW World champ Big Van Vader, Yokozuna, and Shawn Michaels.

Lawler also was recognized for his long, violent, and intense Feud of the Year with "King Of The Ring" Bret Hart. The Hart-Lawler feud received more votes than any Achievement '93 winner. Inspirational Wrestler of the Year went to one of the last people one might think would win it, Cactus Jack. Considering the odds he overcame to return to the ring, who would doubt he deserved it? However, the balloting was close, as Luger, with the way he stood up for America during his World title quest, almost won a third Achievement Award.

PWI readers spread their votes around in the Match of the Year category. The winner was the July 19 *WWF Monday Night Raw* contest between I-C champ Michaels and his ex-partner, Marty Jannetty. The SummerSlam bout pitting Rick and Scott Steiner against The Heavenly Bodies finished a solid second in the balloting.

The Steiners weren't runners-up in the Tag Team category, winning top honors for the second time. But the voting was close, as former WCW tag champs The Hollywood Blonds and former WWF titlists Money Inc. finished second and third, respectively.

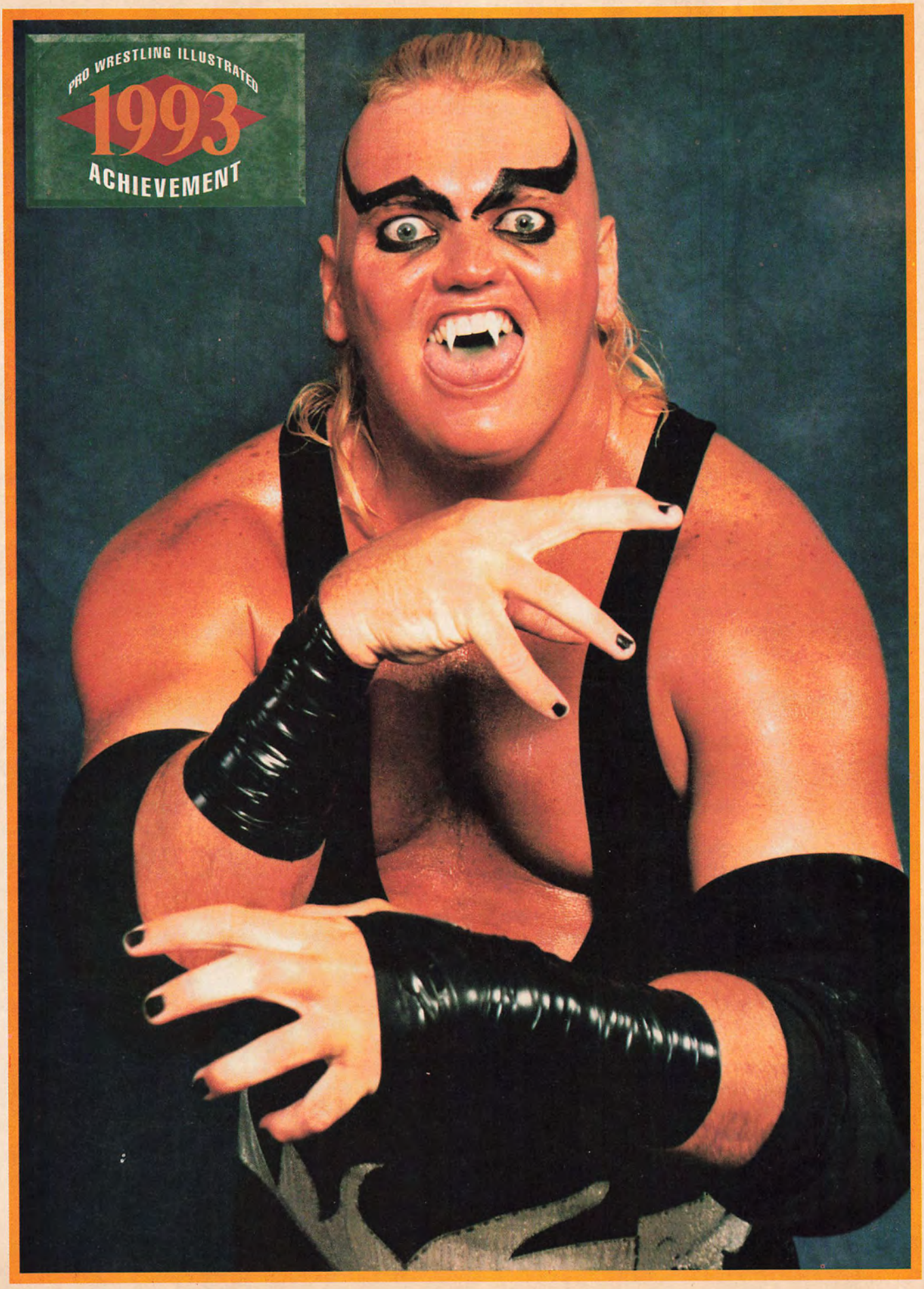
Manager of the Year, for the second time, was one-time Smoky Mountain commissioner and constant WWF troublemaker Jim Cornette. The man with the ubiquitous tennis racket and loud clothes squeaked by Harley Race, manager of ...

... Vader, 1993's Wrestler of the Year. The three-time WCW World champion was definitely "The Man" in WCW this year. However, he didn't dominate this category the way he dominated opponents; "Hitman" Bret Hart, who held the WWF World title in 1993 and finished ahead of Vader for the top spot in the "*PWI* 500," was a close first runner-up.

Special note goes to The 1-2-3 Kid, who was among the top three runners-up in both the Most Improved and Inspirational categories, and Brutus Beefcake, a top-three runner-up in the Comeback as well as Inspirational voting.

This year's Editors' Award goes to Andre the Giant. Andre, who died last January at the age of 46, is truly one of the sport's legends. Those who saw him wrestle even once will never forget him.

That's enough of a preview. Now turn the page and see how your choices finished in the balloting.


PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
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ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

VAMPIRE WARRIOR

9,287 votes

AN OPPONENT OF Vampire Warrior's once joked that not only was he not a vampire, but that he wasn't much of a warrior either.

Guess who's laughing now?

That's right, the man with the fangs is 1993's Rookie of the Year. Admittedly, it was far from an overwhelming choice; his was the lowest vote total of any Achievement Award winner. Not one first-year competitor stood out in the field, and fans spread their votes around rather liberally.

Nevertheless, Warrior did have a fine year, capturing the USWA Southern title from Jeff Jarrett, one of the most skilled pros around. He also captured a lot of attention for his unusual appearance.

"Man, it turns me off just to *look* at the guy," wrote Fran Iannucci of Memphis. "We see a lot of strange people in the Mid-South Coliseum, and Vampire Warrior is sure one of the strangest."

One of the strangest wrestlers also has one of the strangest managers: Luna Vachon. Wrestling's loony lady lends her advice to Warrior whenever she gets down to the USWA. There have also been plenty of rumors their relationship is more than just a professional one, but nobody knows for sure.

"What's important is that this man has the potential to be a force in this sport," said Bert Prentice, a one-time Warrior advisor who now runs Championship Wrestling from Indiana. "He's been underestimated for a long time. A lot of people laugh at him. Pretty soon they'll have to start respecting him. But I suspect that before they do, Vampire will bust a few heads open first."

There is something else about Vampire Warrior: He's extremely mysterious. Even Luna would admit she doesn't quite understand what motivates him. There is no doubt that this unpredictability is a ring asset.

"You can't deny that the man is dangerous," Jarrett admitted. "Wrestling him, I was never sure if he wanted my title, or just my head on a platter. I've always felt confident I could beat him, but he does frighten me."

If he can continue frightening people in 1994, the surprise Rookie of the Year may pull a few more surprises.

RUNNERS-UP

ROBBIE EAGLE

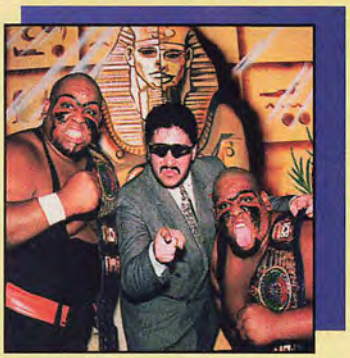
8,556 votes

First runner-up: Youth, energy, style. Those three words ably describe Robbie Eagle, who possesses all three qualities. The native of North Carolina brought his extensive amateur background to the Smoky Mountain federation in 1993 and promises to soon be one of its top stars. Here are three more words to describe Eagle: World of potential.

THE COLES

7,042 votes

Second runner-up: That's Keith on the left and Kent on the right. No, wait, it's the other way around. Isn't it? Opponents wish the only problem they had with the Coles is telling them apart. The identical twins have proven themselves to be a formidable tag team, one that probably will contend for WCW championship gold sometime in 1994.



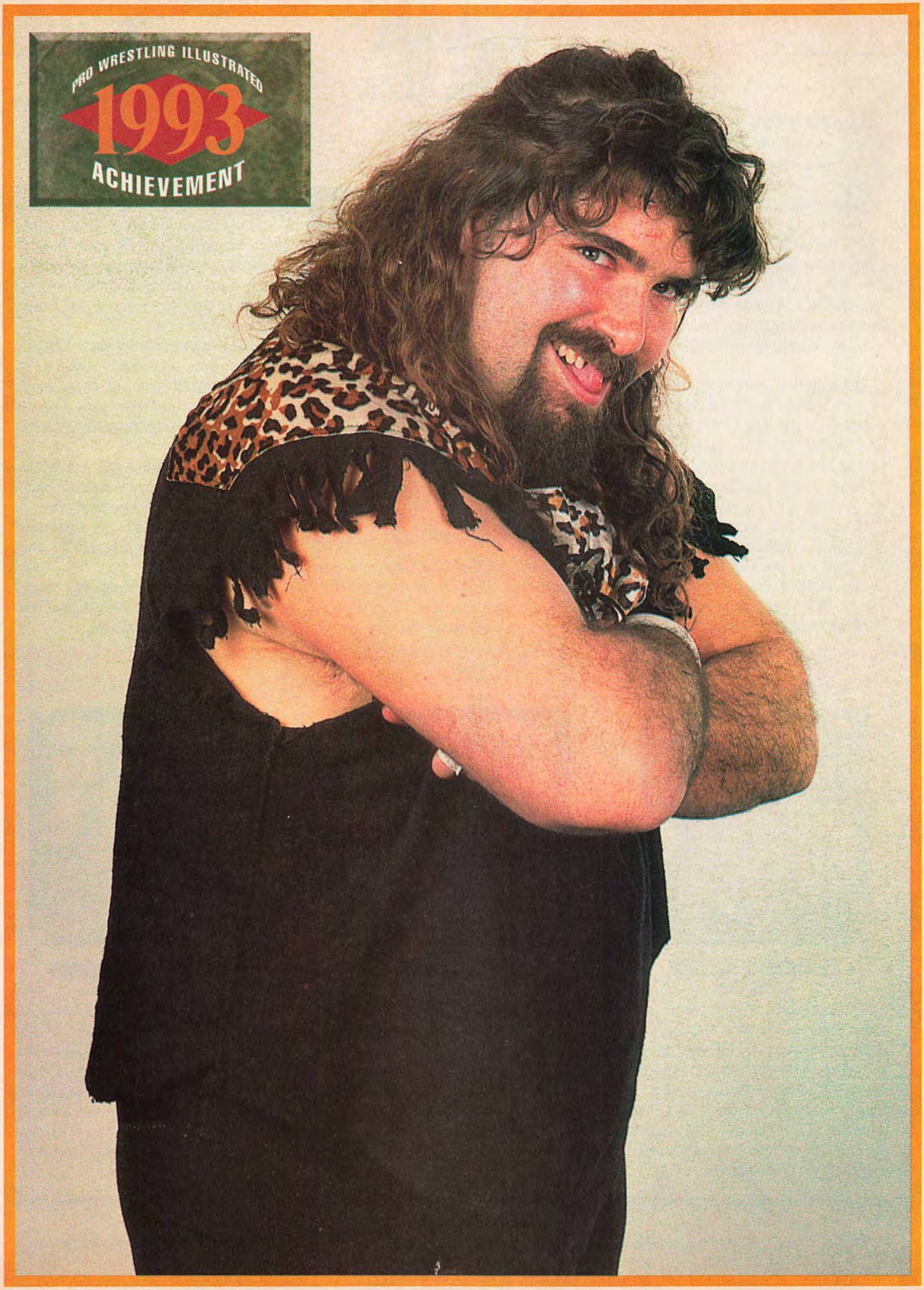
THE HEADHUNTERS

6,107 votes

Third runner-up: The Headhunters aren't cannibals, insists their manager, Victor Quinones; they just like the taste of human flesh now and again. These bloodthirsty behemoths are made all the more dangerous by the fact that they possess amazing high-flying ability. Whether in Japan, Mexico, or ECW, The Headhunters do indeed live up to their name.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (36,208)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Bobby Duncum Jr., John Hawk, Ice Train, Yoshi Kwan, Melvin Penrod Jr., Quebecer Pierre, and P.J. Walker.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INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

CACTUS JACK

16,146 votes

UNTIL THIS YEAR, about the only thing Cactus Jack might have inspired anyone to do is take a bath; the New Mexican madman's never been renowned for neatness. But in 1993, Cactus truly was an inspiration in the best sense of the word.

Back in April, Jack suffered a severe concussion when Big Van Vader powerbombed him on the concrete floor. After a stay in the hospital, where he experienced brief spells of amnesia, Jack dropped out of sight. When he was discovered by a WCW television reporter in Cleveland, Cactus claimed to know nothing about his past as a wrestler.

But in August, right near the end of the Clash of the Champions card in Daytona Beach, Florida, Jack reappeared dramatically, saving Davey Boy Smith from a further beating at the hands of Vader and his manager, Harley Race. There could be no doubt: Cactus Jack was back, and the crowd roared its approval.

At Halloween Havoc, Jack finally began the process of gaining revenge on Vader. Although he didn't win their Texas death match, he proved that he could be as wild and reckless—and effective—as he ever was.

"Maybe people thought I'd lost a step, or that I wouldn't be aggressive enough, or that I'd be too slow. Dead wrong!" Jack bellowed. "I'm gonna keep on pushing ahead and I'm not gonna stop until Vader has paid completely for what he did to me. Bang! Bang!"

For Jack's fans, it was a great moment.

"To think that six months ago it looked like his career was over," marveled Dana Lewis of Annapolis, Maryland. "Now he's the same Cactus Jack he's always been. When I saw those interviews where he said he wasn't a wrestler, they really worried me. Those worries are gone."

Even those who are turned off by Jack's tactics admit that his story is an inspiring one.

"After all he's been through, you can't help but admire the guy," wrote Bob Martin of Altadena, California. "It would have been a heck of a lot easier for him to stay out of the ring, but he fought the odds and now he's one of the top contenders."

That's worthy of yet another "Bang! Bang!"

RUNNERS-UP

LEX LUGER

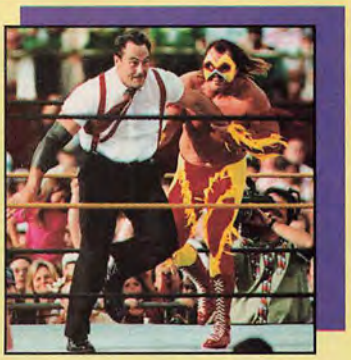
15,857 votes

First runner-up: Luger's turn away from rulebreaking and his embracing of patriotism nearly won him this honor. It inspired those who believed the former "Narcissist" would never care about anyone but himself. "Even if he never wins the WWF title from Yokozuna," wrote Will Perry of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, "Lex will always be an American hero."

THE KID

15,019 votes

Second runner-up: The experts said Kid was too small to make it in the WWF. They also said he needed a little more seasoning on the independent circuit. They were wrong on both counts. With his tenacity and stellar scientific skill, Kid reaffirmed the old adage: It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog.



BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

13,331 votes

Third runner-up: In 1990, Beefcake's face was crushed in a parasailing accident. Forget about wrestling; his task then was to regain some semblance of a normal life. But in February, Beefcake made his amazing return to the ring. With a loyal Hulk Hogan at his side, Brutus demonstrated his determination to continue wrestling at the highest level.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (9,793)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Johnny B. Badd, Jeff Jarrett, Sting, and Tatanka.

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
1993
ACHIEVEMENT

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

YOKOZUNA

21,056 votes

WHEN WE PRESENTED our nominees for Most Improved Wrestler of the Year in the January 1994 issue, you looked at them and said, "Somebody's missing." Boy, did we get the message.

Call Yokozuna the Steve Garvey of wrestling. In 1974, the Los Angeles Dodgers' first baseman's name was not listed on the All-Star ballot, but he was voted to the starting lineup as a write-in candidate.

Not only did Garvey become the All-Star Game's Most Valuable Player, he topped off the season by winning the National League MVP award. Yokozuna kind of did things in reverse. He won the WWF World title *before* he got all those write-in votes.

"Yokozuna finally put it all together in 1993," said WWF analyst Thomas Pilliard. "He finally learned to use that overwhelming size of his to maximum advantage. That splash he does from the second rope may look very easy to execute, but there actually is a skill in landing exactly the right way. It's very impressive to watch."

Yokozuna's manager, Mr. Fuji, may have his faults, but must receive a lot of credit for the big man's success. It was Fuji who took an almost unknown entity and helped make him one of the biggest stars in WWF history.

"Fuji gave Yokozuna a real focus," noted Don Muraco, himself a former Fuji charge. "He has that ability to help you shut out all the outside distractions and force you to think about only what's important. That's very evident to me when I see Yokozuna wrestle."

Others were not so willing to pat Fuji on the back.

"Yokozuna may not say much," wrote Mike Littell of Fall River, Massachusetts, "but I have a hunch he's a lot smarter than he lets on. I'll bet he was able to figure out on his own what he needed to do to become a champion. Whatever both Fuji and Jim Cornette did for him was overrated."

In any event, Yokozuna had a great year, a much better one than he had in 1992. By giving him an overwhelming victory in this category, the fans recognized that.

Even if we didn't.

RUNNERS-UP

THE KID

12,518 votes

First runner-up: Already an outstanding aerial artist, Kid pushed himself to new limits in 1993. With victories over impressive competition, this exciting athlete proved he belongs in the big leagues. If the WWF ever creates a light heavyweight division, Kid is the odds-on favorite to be its first champion. Even in the heavyweights, he's still a title contender.

BRIAN LEE

10,187 votes

Second runner-up: His methods are questionable. He turned violently against old friend Tracey Smothers. He won the Smoky Mountain title from Smothers thanks mainly to interference from his manager, Tammy Fytch. Nevertheless, this was the year "Prime Time" Brian Lee showed the wrestling world that he is indeed ready for prime time.

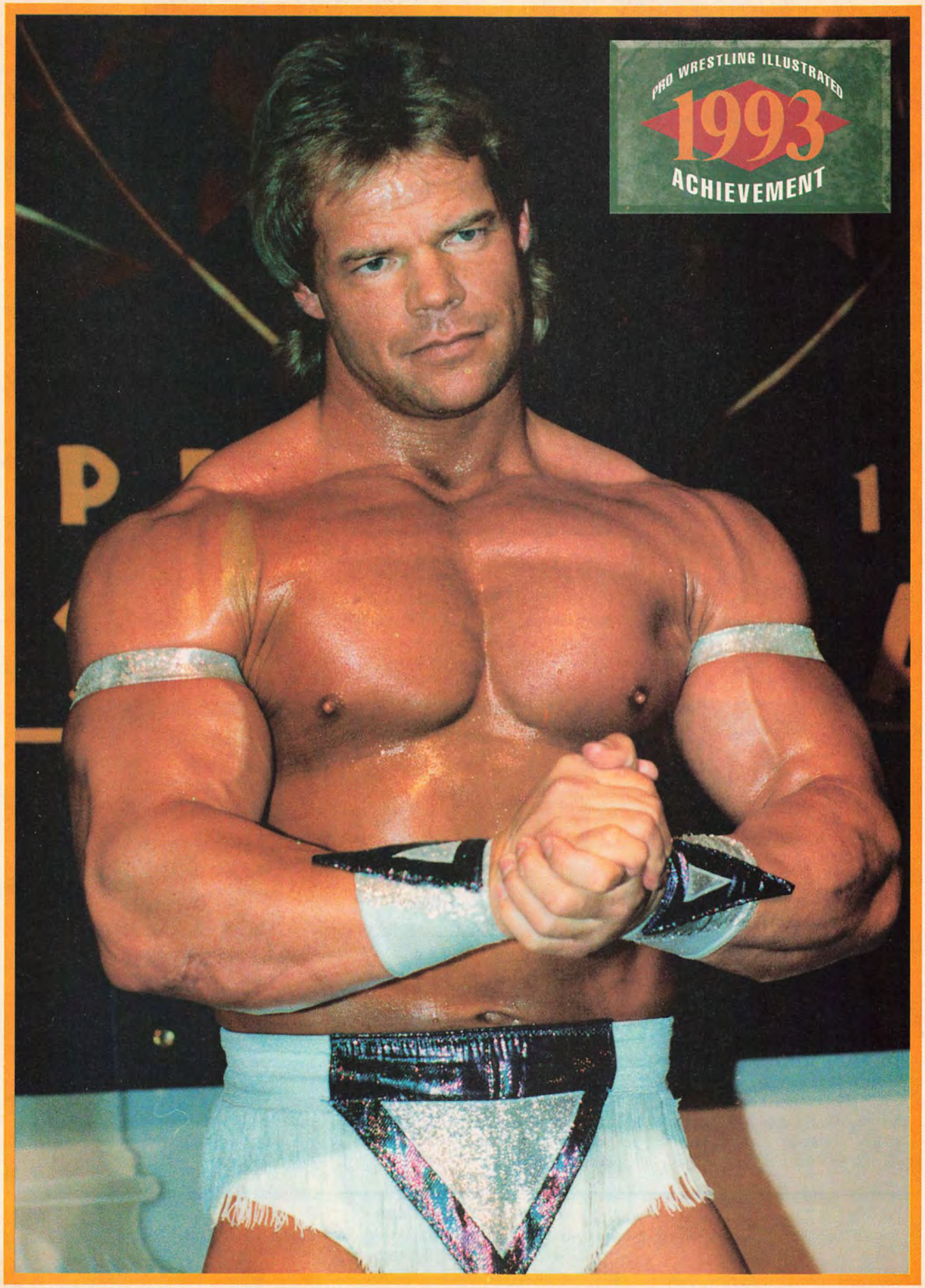
TATANKA

7,796 votes

Third runner-up: Many experts said this would be the year Tatanka broke through and won the Intercontinental title. It hasn't happened yet, but the Native American star has moved far enough up the WWF ladder to convince admirers he is making sufficient progress toward his goal. He remains one of the toughest men to pin in any federation.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (18,981)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Shane Douglas, The Nasty Boys, Paul Roma, 2 Cold Scorpio, Davey Boy Smith, and Tracey Smothers.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COMEBACK OF THE YEAR

LEX LUGER

20,119 votes

ANOTHER WIN FOR Luger, and this one wasn't even close. That's because for most of 1992, Luger was a bodybuilder with nowhere to compete. In 1993, he became an American hero.

After leaving WCW early in 1992, Luger signed with Vince McMahon's now-defunct World Bodybuilding Federation. Days before the WBF's first pay-per-view show, Luger hurt himself in a motorcycle accident and was forced to miss the contest. Contractually prevented from competing in the WWF, Luger was a man without a sport.

Luger finally made his WWF debut at 1993's Royal Rumble, but as the "Narcissist," managed by Bobby Heenan. Though at times he seemed more concerned with his image in the mirror than with wrestling, Luger looked every bit like the former world champion he is. With a pinfall victory over "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig at WrestleMania, Luger proved to the doubters he was back in championship form.

The first part of his comeback may have been a surprise, but the second part was a stunner. With his dramatic body-slam of World champion Yokozuna at the Fourth of July "Stars And Stripes Challenge," Luger made his comeback one that fans could celebrate.

"When I saw him at the Rumble," wrote Charles Cross of Minnetonka, Minnesota, "I was disappointed because I'd been looking forward to seeing him wrestle and I didn't like his new image. But after he slammed Yokozuna, I saw him as the guy I'd always rooted for in WCW."

On his subsequent "Lex Express" tour of America, Luger not only vowed to win the World title for his country, but thanked fans for not forgetting him during his absence from the squared circle. The success of the tour reaffirmed that one of the sport's biggest stars was back.

For Luger, though, the thing that would really top this Comeback of the Year would be the WWF World title. But even if he doesn't win, his remarkable accomplishments in 1993 have made him a champion in the eyes of many. On this comeback, he came back to his senses.

RUNNERS-UP

BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

13,761 votes

First runner-up: After Beefcake's horrible parasailing accident in 1990, few expected him to return to the ring, but he did and he looked great in doing so. After his and Hulk Hogan's bitter loss to Money Inc. at WrestleMania, Brutus began to concentrate more on singles competition. With Hogan doing more acting, look for Beefcake to do more on his own.

RIC FLAIR

11,952 votes

Second runner-up: Flair's comeback was of a different sort. In 1993, he returned to the federation of his greatest fame, WCW, and captured the NWA title, demonstrating in the process that he remains one of the game's most formidable competitors. He also hastened the comeback of The Four Horsemen, a group with ever-changing names but never-changing influence.

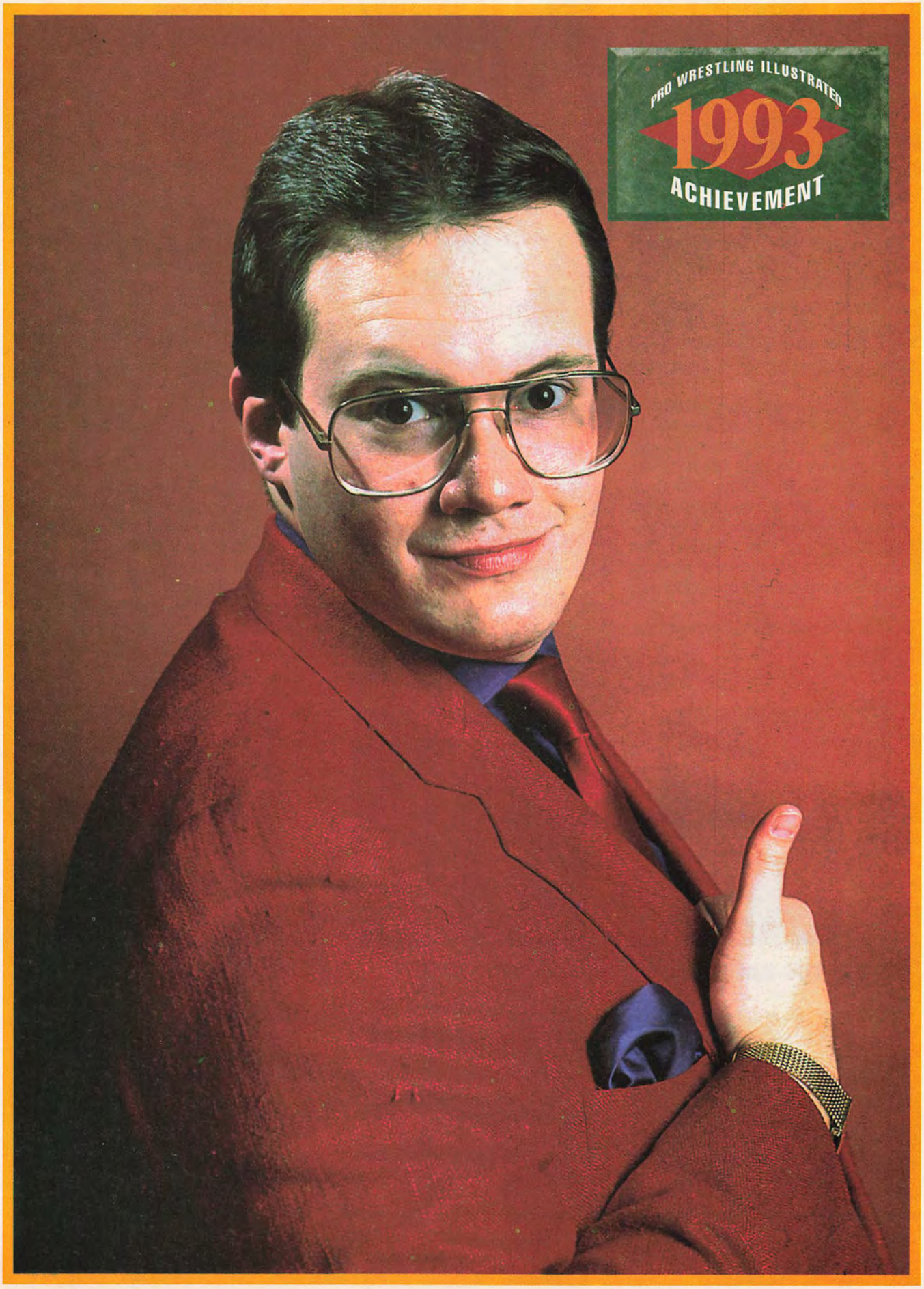
PAUL ROMA

8,029 votes

Third runner-up: From professional boxing to the Horsemen; this was quite a year for Paul Roma. In August, he proved he belonged in the elite group when he and Arn Anderson won the WCW World tag team title. Though no longer a titlist, Roma finally is being respected not merely for his great physique, but for his grappling ability as well.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (16,394)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Hawk, Marty Jannetty, Tommy Rich, Sid Vicious, and Yokozuna.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MANAGER OF THE YEAR

JIM CORNETTE

16,659 votes

IS JIM CORNETTE a genius? Who knows, but in 1993 he demonstrated that he has one of the shrewdest, most conniving minds in the wrestling business. In the process, he won his second Manager of the Year award.

Cornette has far more power and influence today, however, than he did at the time of his first victory in 1985. That could hardly be said of him at the beginning of the year, when the former manager of NWA tag team champions was plying his trade in the fledgling Smoky Mountain Wrestling federation.

In January, Cornette began making noises in WCW, claiming that his tag team The Heavenly Bodies should replace The Rock 'n' Roll Express as Smoky Mountain's representatives at SuperBrawl III. He didn't get his way then, but the effort was a warning of more significant things to come.

Cornette fans who had always yearned to see what their man could do in the WWF got their chance in July, when, at the behest of his friend Mr. Fuji, the "Louisville Slugger" signed on as a legal adviser to World champion Yokozuna. Cornette arranged it so that Lex Luger's title match with Yokozuna at SummerSlam would be his first and only championship bout. Cornette also got his Heavenly Bodies a SummerSlam encounter with then-World tag team champions Rick and Scott Steiner.

All the while, Cornette was dominating the scene in Smoky Mountain. After his longtime rival, SMW Commissioner Bob Armstrong, resigned his post in order to gain revenge on Cornette in the ring, Cornette announced that he wanted to be commissioner. He got his wish when his surrogate, Terry Funk, defeated Armstrong in a special match to fill the vacancy.

Truly, Cornette has made his presence felt in many ways. Even those who despise him acknowledge his ever-growing influence.

"You'd be stupid to ignore Cornette," said Smoky Mountain grappler Tracey Smothers. "It seems he's everywhere you look. He's got his fingers in a lot of different pies. He doesn't just want to dominate one federation; he wants to dominate the whole sport."

With the way Cornette's going these days, he just might do it.

RUNNERS-UP

HARLEY RACE

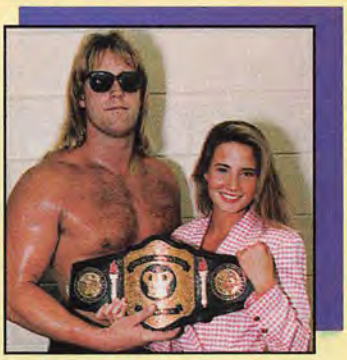
15,741 votes

First runner-up: The seven-time former NWA World champion has effectively guided the career of the current WCW World champion. Big Van Vader seems to look more and more impressive with each title defense. "Of course Vader is extremely talented," said one WCW insider, "but there's a real skill to handling him. Race knows how to push the right buttons."

MR. FUJI

10,124 votes

Second runner-up: Fuji has been a WWF mainstay for quite a few years, and this year he finally achieved his dream of managing a World champion. Yokozuna was a classic underachiever until Fuji molded him into a dominant force. Then recognizing his own shortcomings as a manager, he shrewdly brought in Jim Cornette for assistance.



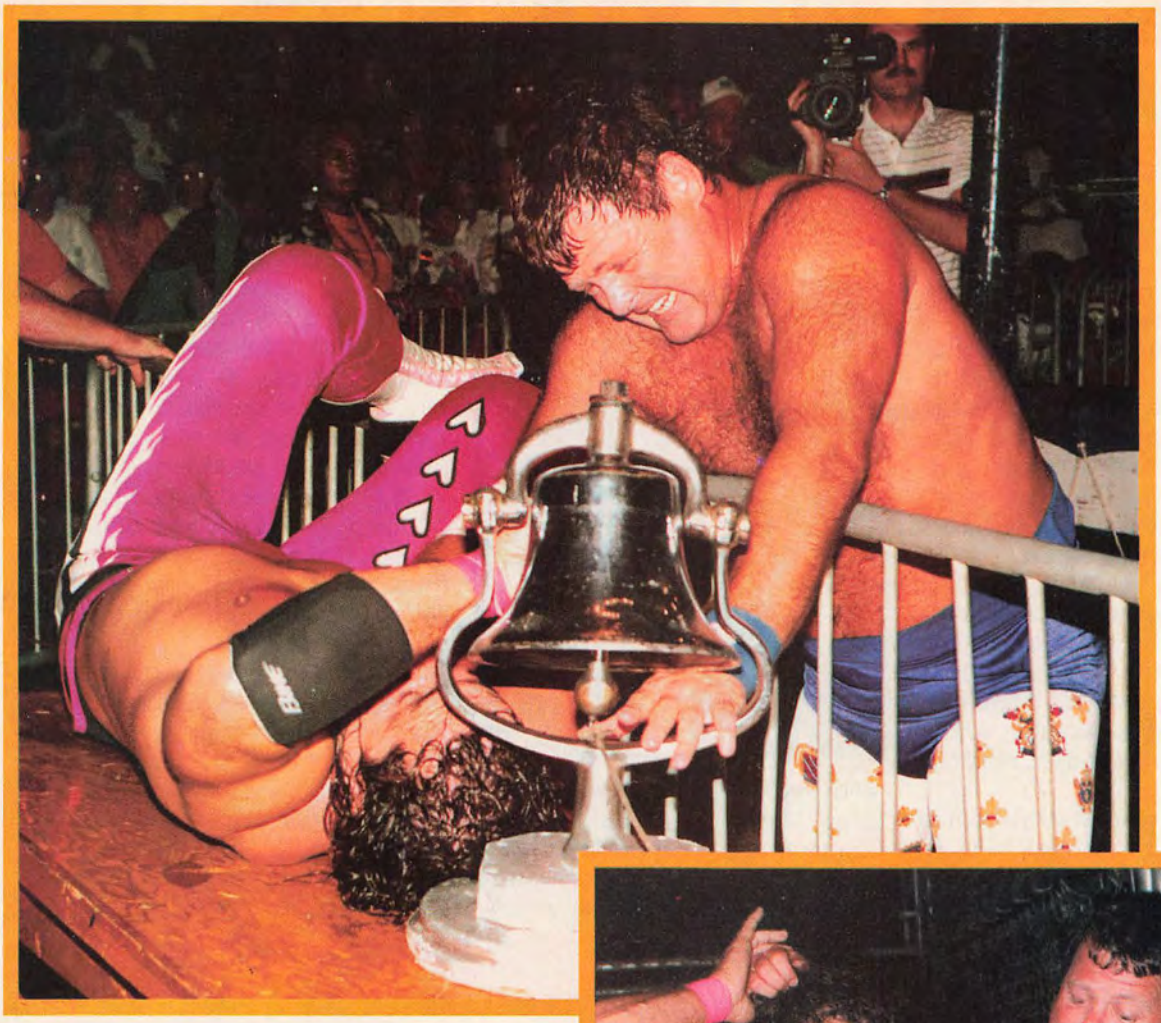
TAMMY FYTCH

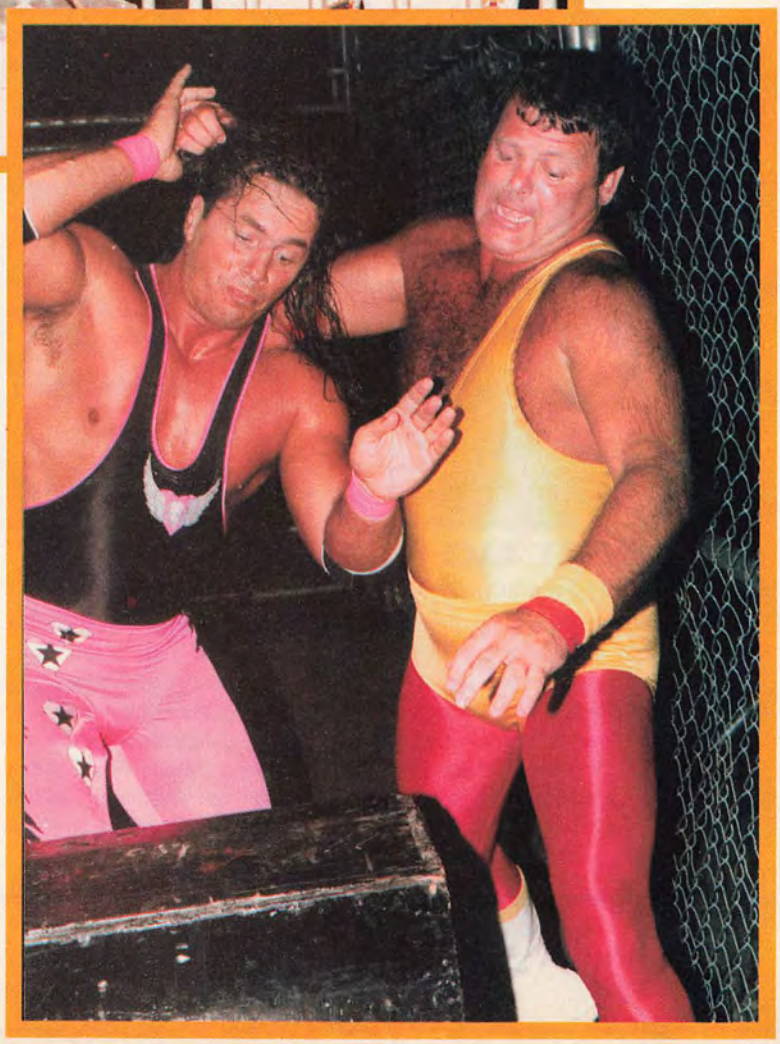
7,982 votes

Third runner-up: From Wellesley to Smoky Mountain—what a strange trip it's been for rookie manager Fytch. An ardent devotee of First Lady Hillary Clinton, Fytch convinced Brian Lee that only she could make him a champion, and she proceeded to do just that. It's early, but Fytch has the potential to be one of the sport's most influential managers.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (19,704)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Jesse Barr, Paul Bearer, Paul E. Dangerously, Jimmy Hart, Missy Hyatt, Col. Robert Parker, Johnny Polo, Bert Prentice, Harvey Wippleman, and Ron Wright.





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FEUD OF THE YEAR

BRET HART VS. JERRY LAWLER

22,006 votes

THIS FEUD INVOLVED not only two wrestlers, but two federations. Sometimes, it was hard to tell the good guys from the bad.

It began on June 13, after Hart had won the "King Of The Ring" tournament. As the "Hitman" celebrated his victory, Lawler stormed onto the scene, claimed that he was the real "king," and ordered Hart to kiss his feet. When Bret refused, Lawler hit him with a scepter, broke his crown, kicked him, and booted Hart's throne in anger.

That served not only to start a major feud, but create a family furor. Lawler's actions especially infuriated Bret's brother, Owen. On June 21, after winning the USWA title from Papa Shango in Memphis, Owen returned the favor on Lawler. That's where it started to get complicated.

In many places, a thrashing on Lawler would be greeted enthusiastically, but this was "The King's" home territory, and Owen's attempt at revenge did something very unlikely: It made the Harts look like the dirtiest rulebreakers.

"I know the Harts are one of the greatest families ever in wrestling," wrote Memphis resident Mark Coppola, "but what Owen did to Lawler was uncalled for. I felt like I had to root for Lawler."

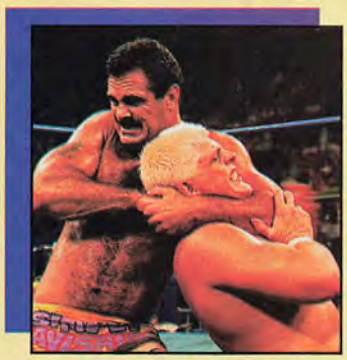
At SummerSlam, the feud took another bizarre turn. Lawler defeated Hart by reverse decision when it was ruled that Hart had used excessive force in applying his "sharpshooter" leglock.

Chiefly as a result of these confrontations, Lawler ended up being voted Most Hated Wrestler of the Year, while Hart finished a close third in the Most Popular balloting. During this feud, however, the prospect of winning an Achievement Award was not what drove the combatants.

"Bret Hart and that whole family of his made a big mistake when they came after 'The King'!" said Lawler. "I started this feud, and I'm also going to end it. I'll drive that Canadian loser right out of the WWF!"

"It takes a lot to get Bret worked up," noted his brother, Bruce. "Lawler has really fired up Bret. He's made him angrier than I've ever seen him before. I'm not sure how it will end, but it won't be good for Lawler."

RUNNERS-UP



RICK RUDE vs. DUSTIN RHODES

14,943 votes

First runner-up: Here was a classic feud that revolved around a title. Rhodes was U.S. champion when the title was held up following a controversial double-pin situation. For months they battled intensely for the championship; their draw in the "Ironman" contest represented the apex of the feud. On August 31, Rhodes finally settled it, regaining the title.

CACTUS JACK vs. BIG VAN VADER

12,576 votes

Second runner-up: It appeared Vader had ended whatever feud might occur when he power-bombed Jack on concrete and put him out of action. But Jack made an amazing comeback. Although Vader won their Texas death match at Halloween Havoc, the WCW World champion has learned that it's dangerous to underestimate the New Mexican madman.

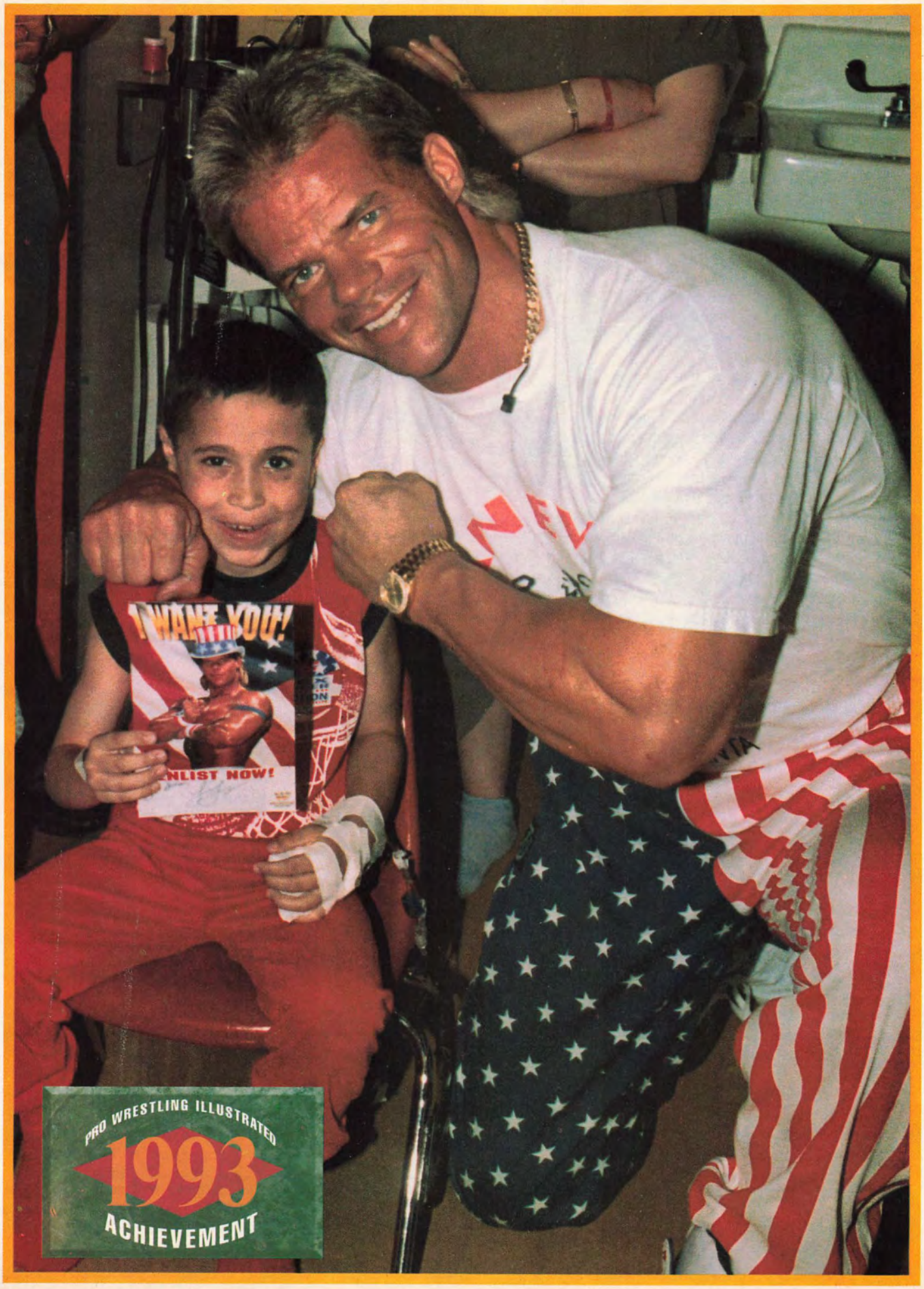
TONY ANTHONY vs. TRACEY SMOTHERS

11,019 votes

Third runner-up: It is hard to believe the "Dirty White Boy" and Smothers are on the verge of becoming friends, considering that for months their bloody feud dominated Smoky Mountain. When Anthony, a native of Tennessee, temporarily adopted New York City as his hometown, Smothers felt compelled to defend the South's honor. He did so valiantly.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (10,075)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Johnny B. Badd vs. Maxx Payne, Brian Christopher vs. Jeff Jarrett, Giant Gonzales vs. The Undertaker, Bret Hart vs. Yokozuna, Curt Hennig vs. Shawn Michaels, Marty Jannetty vs. Shawn Michaels, Brian Lee vs. Tracey Smothers, and Sting vs. Big Van Vader.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MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

LEX LUGER

16,748 votes

WHAT A TURNAROUND this year was for Lex Luger. In 1992, he was among the most despised men in any federation. This year, PWI readers voted him Most Popular Wrestler of the Year. It isn't hard to see why they did it.

Until the Fourth of July, Luger was known as the conceited, arrogant "Narcissist." But on that day, he became an American hero when he bodyslammed WWF World champion Yokozuna during a surprise appearance at the "Stars and Stripes Challenge." Suddenly, he went from being despised to adored.

"I always thought Lex was a typical rulebreaker who looked out only for himself," wrote Rita Allen of Woodbridge, Virginia. "But when he stood up for America that day, he showed that he was something special. After that, I couldn't help but root for him."

But in an exclusive interview with our sister publication *Inside Wrestling,* Luger insisted he is the very same person he had always been.

"I love my country, and I always have," he said. "I'm a red-blooded American through and through. What Yokozuna was trying to do really burned me, and I wasn't going to let him get away with it."

No matter; Luger's popularity spread even further when he embarked on his "Lex Express" bus tour of the U.S. At every stop, fans listened as he spoke proudly of his country, announcing his intention to win the World title from Yokozuna at SummerSlam—not for himself, but for America.

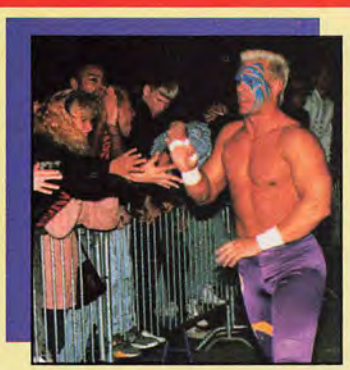
"I was lucky enough to be at one of the stops on his tour, and it was quite an experience," said Roger Norris of Des Moines, Iowa. "You could just feel the excitement when Lex got off the bus and started greeting the people. You'd have thought he'd won the title already."

Although he has yet to capture the championship from Yokozuna, Luger remains undaunted, and his fans remain loyal.

"He'll always be Lex," said Samantha Youngblood of Ocala, Florida. "He'll always have that cocky attitude. But I really think that after all these years, he's committed to doing the right thing."

At least in 1993 he was.

RUNNERS-UP



STING

15,942 votes

First runner-up: Although he has not been a champion since losing the WCW World title to Big Van Vader on St. Patrick's Day, the "Stinger" remains extremely popular, so much so that he almost won this award. Wrote Jane Peterson of Atlanta, "Titles or not, you always know that no matter what, Sting will be in there fighting the good fight."

BRET HART

15,189 votes

Second runner-up: Another close runner-up, Hart continues to impress fans not only with the quality of his wrestling, but with the content of his character. The "Hitman" has always had a solid following, but his long-running feud with Jerry Lawler served only to win him more backers. Supporters also are impressed with his work ethic and love of family.

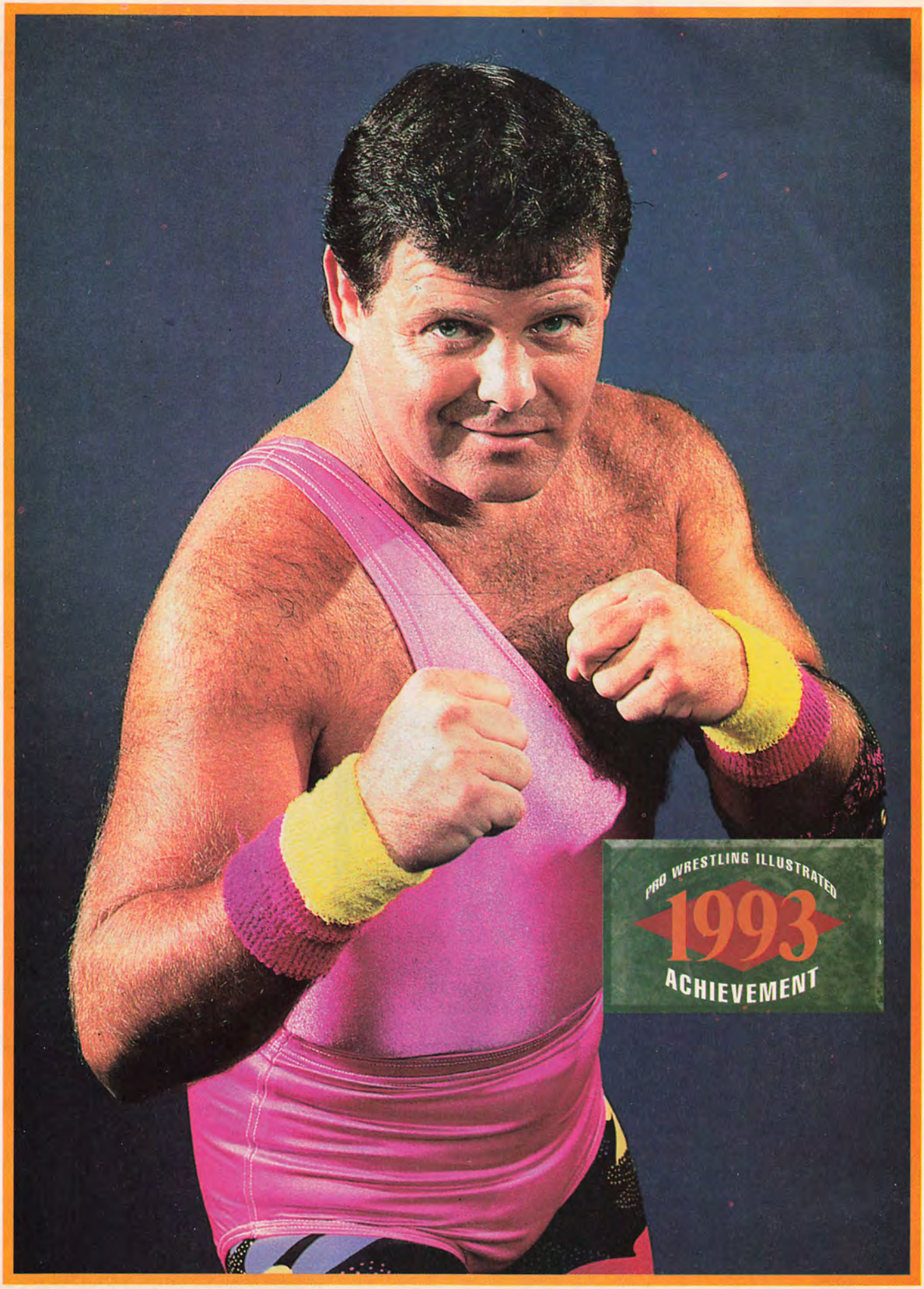
DUSTIN RHODES

7,796 votes

Third runner-up: "The Natural" proved conclusively that he doesn't need his famous father, Dusty, at his side to win the cheers. Of course, it isn't too hard to be popular when you're feuding with one of the most despised men in WCW, "Ravishing" Rick Rude. Look for the younger Rhodes to win more fans to his cause in 1994.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (13,633)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Johnny B. Badd, Doink, Ric Flair, Curt Hennig, Jerry Lawler, Randy Savage, Davey Boy Smith, Tracey Smothers, and Tatanka.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MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

JERRY LAWLER

14,295 votes

ASK FANS IN the USWA about Jerry Lawler and they'll tell you how much they like and respect him. Ask fans virtually everywhere else and they'll tell you what a disgrace he is.

In 1993, the hatred outweighed the love, and Lawler became 1993's Most Hated Wrestler of the Year.

"Hey, if they want to hate my guts, that's fine with me," said Lawler upon hearing he had won. "Just proves they don't recognize true greatness. The louder they boo, the better it makes me look."

There were a lot of reasons to hate "The King" this year, foremost among them his attack on Bret Hart at the King Of The Ring pay-per-view card in June. Lawler says he did it to prove to the wrestling world who the real king of the WWF is. His detractors think otherwise.

"I never cared much for Lawler to begin with," wrote Pam Vitale of Albany, New York. "I always thought he was a harmless loudmouth. But what he did to Hart convinced me he could be dangerous, and that he had to be stopped. He couldn't be allowed to get away with that."

Even before the assault on the "Hitman," Lawler enjoyed pelting the fans—WWF fans in particular—with vicious insults. They enjoyed returning the favor, infuriating him with chants of "Burger King! Burger King!"

"That's all he is," seethed William Howard of Toronto. "A burger king! I can't believe the people in the USWA love him so much. What are they thinking? Those folks down there should wake up and realize what kind of a monster they've created."

Lawler angers fans and wrestlers in ways beyond just his actions in the ring. As a WWF commentator, "The King" never misses a chance to skewer a fan favorite or heap praise upon a rulebreaker. It is perhaps this attitude that has inspired his broadcast colleague (and quasi-boss) Vince McMahon to interfere in several of Lawler's USWA matches.

"If that coward McMahon thinks he can make me look bad while he comes up smelling like roses," said Lawler, "then he's got another think coming! I can't wait to get him in the ring and tear off that pencil neck of his!"

Sure sounds like the Most Hated Wrestler of the Year!

RUNNERS-UP

BIG VAN VADER

13,761 votes

First runner-up: Voters hated WCW World champion Vader for the way he's punished Sting. They hated him more for the way he nearly ended Cactus Jack's career. They can't wait to see him lose the belt, but as long as he possesses the championship, they will be content to express their dissatisfaction with a mighty chorus of boos.

YOKOZUNA

12,958 votes

Second runner-up: Here's another World champion most fans can't stand. The massive sumo warrior uses his power and bulk not only to win matches but to damage careers, and that upsets a lot of people. To many, the Samoan Yokozuna is the embodiment of anti-Americanism. "Lawler may hate us," said one fan, "but Yokozuna hates our whole way of life."

SHAWN MICHAELS

12,231 votes

Third runner-up: Michaels' arrogance and ego help make him one of wrestling's most hated men. That he was Intercontinental champion for so long only increased the level of that hatred. Fans readily acknowledge that Michaels is a fine wrestler, but until he changes his attitude, they aren't about to praise him for the quality of his dropkicks.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (18,247)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Brian Lee, Rick Rude, Luna Vachon, and Sid Vicious.

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MATCH OF THE YEAR

SHAWN MICHAELS vs. MARTY JANNETTY

13,146 votes

IT MAY FAIRLY be said that Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels taught each other how to wrestle, considering that for years they were tag team partners. All those lessons made for one heck of a Match of the Year.

It took place on July 19 at New York's Manhattan Center, site of *WWF Monday Night Raw*. Michaels' Intercontinental title was on the line at the same place where, nine weeks earlier, Jannetty had won the belt from his ex-partner. Michaels went on to regain the championship, and add to his entourage a bodyguard, Diesel, who would play a significant role in this rematch.

From the start it was a great match, as both combatants exchanged crunching bodyblows and brilliant scientific maneuvers. Jannetty appeared to win the title when he pinned Michaels near the ropes. As Jannetty was awarded the belt, Diesel began protesting that the pinfall should be disallowed because his man's foot was on the ropes. After taking the very unusual step of viewing a videotape replay of the pin, referee Dave Hebner reversed the decision and restarted the match.

Michaels, well-rested after the stoppage, took the advantage. Jannetty did come back, but with limited effectiveness. When he set up Michaels for a clothesline, the "Boy Toy" ducked the attempt and Jannetty went flying over the ropes. Diesel beat on him then threw him back in the ring. This time it was Michaels who scored the pin, and retained the title.

Though the match's outcome was tainted by the controversial use of instant replay, fans were quick to praise both combatants.

"They both deserved to win; it was that good," wrote Ravi Abkar of Detroit. "There have been a lot of good matches on *Raw*, but this was by far the best. It kind of makes me glad the Rockers split up in the first place!"

More than a well-fought contest, the bout was significant because it reopened the debate over instant replay in professional wrestling.

"The WWF—and every other federation for that matter—is going to have to formulate some sort of policy regarding the use of replay," said one WWF insider. "Great matches have controversy; they can't be decided haphazardly."

RUNNERS-UP

STEINERS vs. HEAVENLY BODIES

11,014 votes

First runner-up: This wasn't supposed to be a great match, scoffed the critics. The Steiners were supposed to outclass the Smoky Mountain interlopers. By the end of the SummerSlam contest, Jim Del Ray and Tom Prichard proved they belonged in the ring against the World tag team champions. The Steiners won the match, and the Bodies won respect.

RICK RUDE vs. DUSTIN RHODES

9,827 votes

Second runner-up: Both were determined to decide the fate of the U.S. title when they stepped through the ropes for this "Ironman Challenge" at Beach Blast. Rude looked like a winner after he pinned Rhodes following a "Rude awakening," but "The Natural" fought back to even the score. The bout ended in a draw, but few who witnessed it felt cheated.

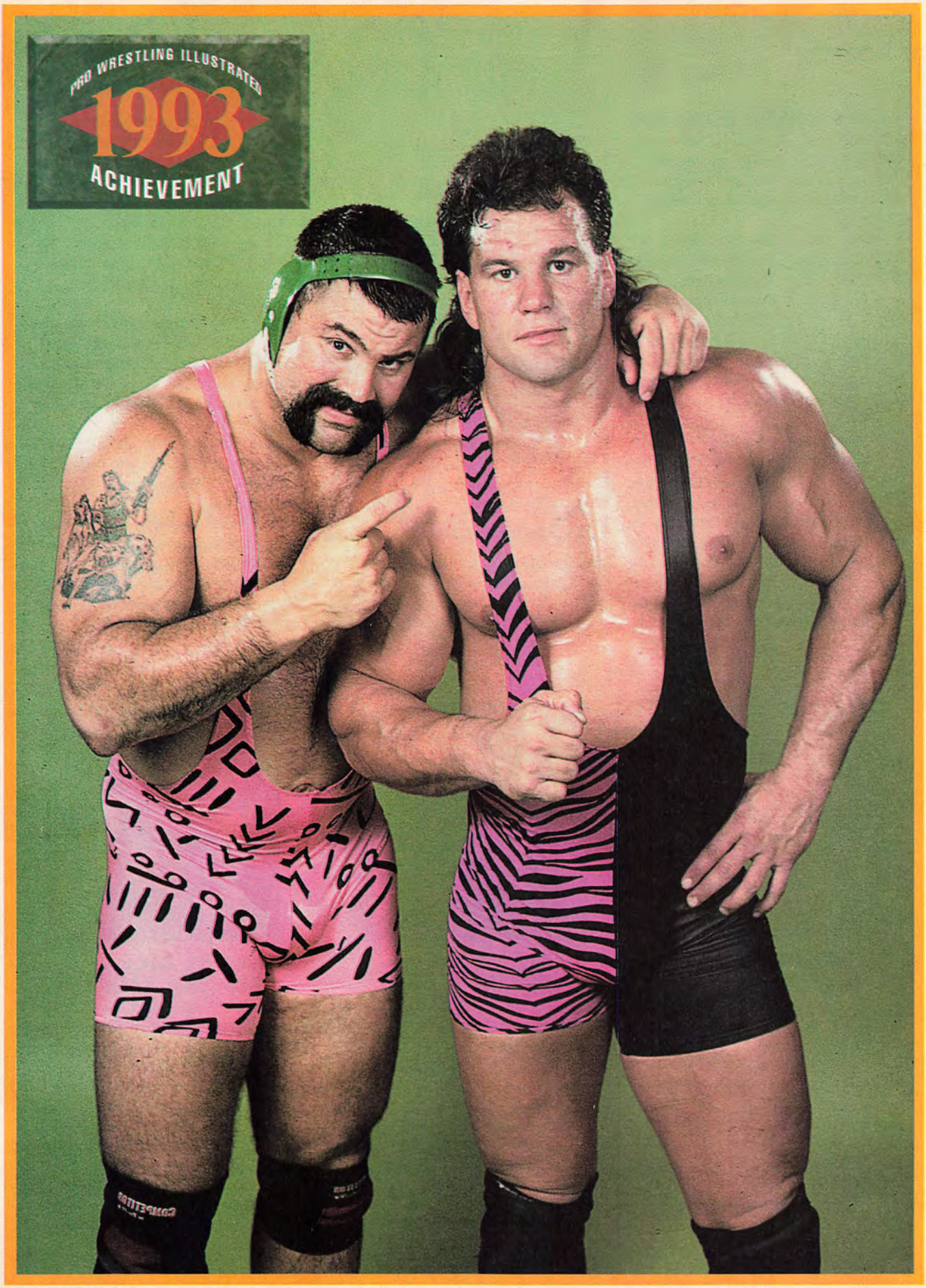
CACTUS JACK vs. BIG VAN VADER

7,654 votes

Third runner-up: Revenge-minded Cactus won the battle, but Vader won the war in this "spin the wheel, make the deal" match at Halloween Havoc. It turned out to be a wild Texas death match. Action spilled throughout Lakefront Arena in New Orleans, with Jack handing out most of the punishment. Yet Vader won, thanks to an electric prod from manager Harley Race.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (29,047)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: January 24: Yokozuna in Royal Rumble, February 21: Cactus Jack vs. Paul Orndorff, May 3: Hulk Hogan vs. Great Muta, May 23: Big Van Vader vs. Davey Boy Smith, and June 13: Bret Hart vs. Curt Hennig.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TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

RICK & SCOTT STEINER

11,751 votes

WHEN THE STEINERS first entered the WWF, few doubted they would someday win the federation's World tag team title. Although they didn't do it as quickly as some predicted, the brothers did capture the prestigious belts, further demonstrating that they not only are a Tag Team of the Year, but are among the greatest tag teams in the history of the sport.

The former NWA/WCW World tag titlists and IWGP beltholders became one of the few teams to win world tag belts in two federations when they defeated Money Inc. on June 14 in Columbus, Ohio. They lost the title to Money Inc. two days later in Rockford, Illinois, but three days after that the brothers became two-time WWF champs when they won the belts back in St. Louis.

After a SummerSlam victory over the surprising Heavenly Bodies, the Steiners agreed to face The Quebecers in a match contested under so-called "Province Of Quebec" rules. Those stipulations included a ban on moves originating from the top rope and a provision that the title could change hands on a countout or disqualification.

The rules were clearly designed to favor the challengers and that's exactly what they did. On September 13 at *Monday Night Raw* in New York, the Steiners lost the belts by disqualification when Scott began hitting Quebecer Jacques with a hockey stick that had been brought to the ring by The Quebecers' manager, Johnny Polo.

Despite the loss, many of those who voted for the Steiners continue to believe the brothers are the best team in wrestling.

"It was really dumb of Rick and Scott to agree to those bogus 'Province Of Quebec' rules," wrote Mandy Redstone of Des Moines, Iowa. "They should have had the sense to see right through that. But all it was was one loss. No way you can convince me The Quebecers are a better team. I have no doubts Rick and Scott will get the belts back."

Whether or not they regain the title, the Steiners have shown they have the ability to dominate in any federation in the world. It is a claim few teams have ever been able to make.

RUNNERS-UP

THE HOLLYWOOD BLONDS

11,148 votes

First runner-up: Though they appear to be on the verge of a major feud, Steve Austin and Brian Pillman were undoubtedly one of 1993's top teams. The Blonds held the WCW World tag team title for five months, and although they enjoyed having fun at their opponents' expense, they blended brawling and science into a lethal combination.

MONEY INC.

10,529 votes

Second runner-up: Another team that no longer exists, Ted DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster ruled the WWF tag team scene for most of the first six months of the year. The duo often was too willing to hang on to the belts by disqualification, but frequently displayed flashes of brilliance that reminded observers why they were champions.

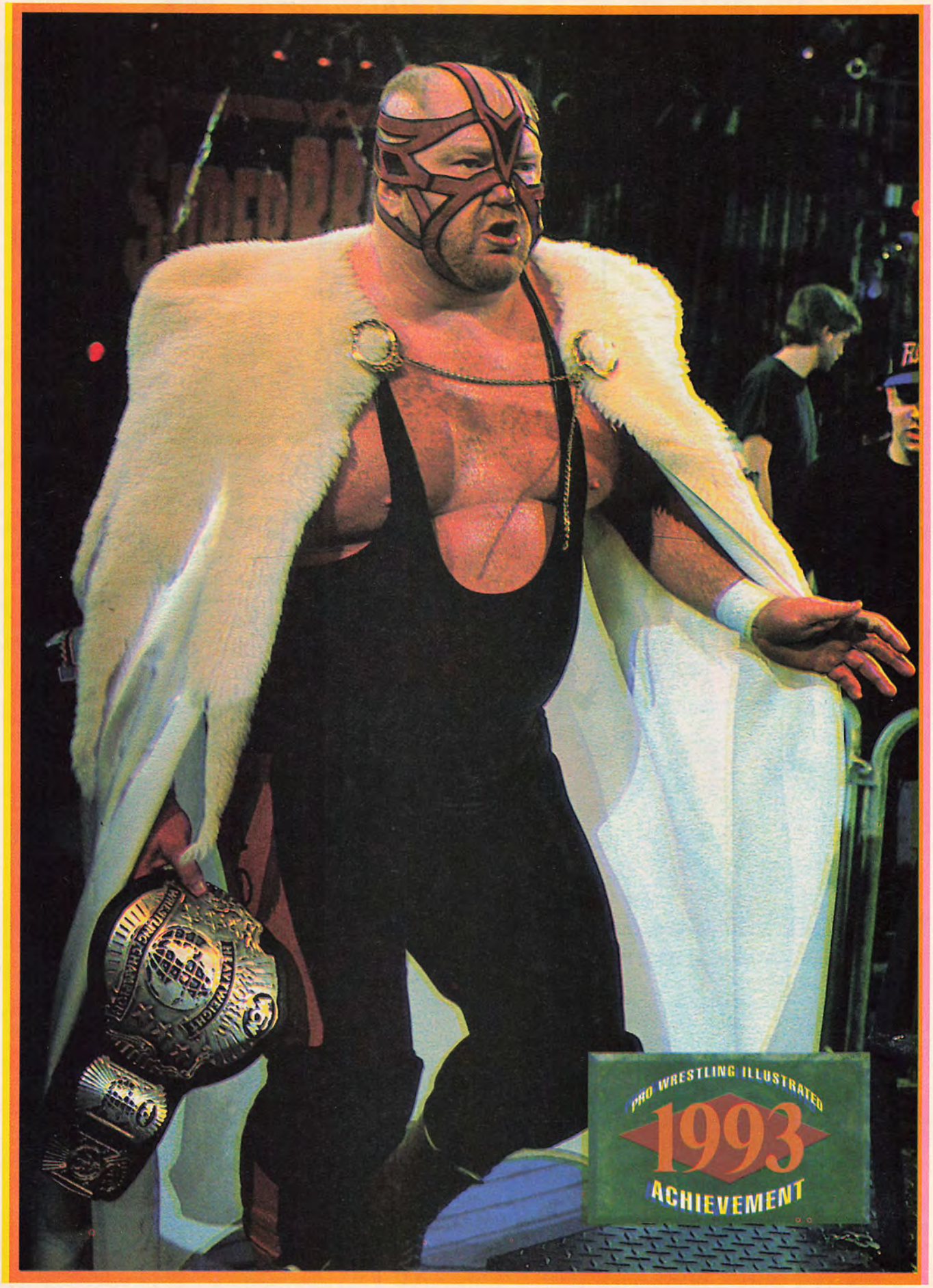
THE HEAVENLY BODIES

6,943 votes

Third runner-up: After "Gigolo" Jim Del Ray and Tom Prichard nearly upset the Steiners at SummerSlam, fans in the WWF discovered what fans in Smoky Mountain had known for months, that the Bodies are one fine team. At one time the Jim Cornette-managed duo consisted of Prichard and Stan Lane (and occasionally Bobby Eaton). Whoever the Bodies were, they were ready.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (27,576)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Arn Anderson & Paul Roma, The Bruise Brothers, Shane Douglas & Rick Steamboat, Hawk & Kensuke Sasaki, The Headhunters, The Headshrinkers, The Moondogs, The Nasty Boys, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, and 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell.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1993
ACHIEVEMENT

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

BIG VAN VADER

17,948 votes

WHO'S THE MAN? That's what WCW World champion Big Van Vader likes to ask whomever will listen. In 1993, a nation of fans answered back: You're the man. You're the Wrestler of the Year.

After Vader regained the title from Ron Simmons on December 30, 1992, he embarked on a year during which he would face many difficult challenges: Sting at SuperBrawl, Davey Boy Smith at Slamboree, Cactus Jack at Halloween Havoc. Through it all, the 450-pound giant always appeared to be the man in control.

"Vader is like a tank," said his manager, Harley Race. "This man is always ready for battle. He can't be deterred from his goal. If he feels pain he'll block it out. He'll do whatever he has to do in order to win."

Aside from being one of the sport's top wrestlers, Vader is one of its most feared men. That fear of him spread dramatically after he piledrived Cactus Jack on a concrete arena floor, sending the wildman to the hospital with a severe concussion and nearly ending his career.

"The guy is so dangerous," said Rick Rude, who hasn't had to wrestle him. "But he's not crazy. He knows exactly what he's doing. That's what makes it even scarier."

For Vader's opponents, this too is scary: The man is no mere cumbersome brawler. He can actually wrestle, possessing the ability to move around the ring extremely well for a man of his wide girth.

It was not such a great year for Vader when he wrestled with partners. At Beach Blast, he and Sid Vicious dropped a decision to Sting and Davey Boy, and at Fall Brawl his team lost the "War Games: The Match Beyond."

However, Vader is honored here not for his tag matches, but for his dominant World title reign, which was interrupted for only six days by Sting during WCW's European tour in March. By the time they returned to the U.S., Vader was champion again.

"Vader infuriates me," wrote John Neeson of Biloxi, Mississippi. "I really wish somebody else could be WCW champion. But I had to vote for him. It's impossible to deny his greatness."

So it is.

RUNNERS-UP

BRET HART

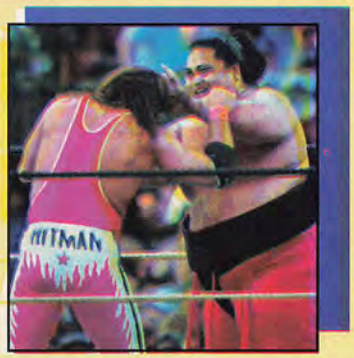
16,856 votes

First runner-up: Hart may be the sport's premier technical wrestler. After losing the WWF World title to Yokozuna at WrestleMania IX, the "Hitman" continued to excel against quality competition. In June, he won the "King Of The Ring" tournament, during which he defeated another technical master, Curt Hennig. When Hart talks about "excellence of execution," he means it.

SHAWN MICHAELS

12,143 votes

Second runner-up: Behind the "Boy Toy" facade there lies a great wrestler; one cannot enjoy a long Intercontinental title reign on looks alone. Though he lost the I-C title briefly and was stripped toward year's end, Michaels was able to put together a string of title defenses that convinced voters this relatively small grappler can walk the walk as well as he can talk the talk.



YOKOZUNA

11,719 votes

Third runner-up: Like Vader, Yokozuna is a powerful behemoth who dominates his federation. In the midst of his second WWF World title reign, the massive Samoan has used his overwhelming bulk and brute power to devastate dozens of foes. With people in his corner like Mr. Fuji and Jim Cornette, it may be a long time before anyone rips the belt off his wide, wide waist.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (13,075)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Ric Flair, Jerry Lawler, Brian Lee, Dustin Rhodes, Rick Rude, Tracey Smothers, and Sting.

EDITORS' AWARD

ANDRE THE GIANT

TO CHILDREN, HE was a gentle giant. To opponents, he was a monster. To fans, he was a legend. He was Andre the Giant.

Last January, the man who in his prime was known as "The Eighth Wonder Of The World" died at the age of 46 while visiting his native France to attend the funeral of his father. "He just went to sleep," said his longtime friend Frenchy Bernard, "and never woke up."

Andre's is one of the great stories of wrestling. His unusual, imposing appearance was due to his being born with acromegaly, a disorder marked by progressive enlargement of the head, face, hands, feet, and chest due to excessive growth hormones.

He began his wrestling career in France in 1964. After five years of competing in his native country, Andre traveled to Japan, where his appearances drew capacity crowds. In 1971, he made his Canadian debut. He soon became a particular favorite of the French-speaking population, who embraced him for his friendly demeanor as well as his wrestling skills.

Throughout the 1970s, Andre competed extensively in Canada, the United States, and Japan, preferring not to remain in one territory. He usually competed either in handicap matches, or against big men like Blackjack Mulligan, Ernie Ladd, and Big John Studd. His box-office appeal was astounding; in 1975 he reportedly earned $400,000, an unheard-of figure for a professional wrestler at the time.

Andre's appeal extended beyond the ring. In 1975 the Washington Redskins gave him a tryout at defensive tackle. In December 1981, he was the subject of (appropriately) one of the largest profiles ever in *Sports Illustrated.* He did some acting, appearing as Bigfoot on the TV series *The Six-Million-Dollar Man.* In 1987, he played Fezzik in the acclaimed fantasy film *The Princess Bride.*

When Muhammad Ali faced Antonio Inoki in their famous boxer vs. wrestler match in Japan in 1976, Andre squared off against boxer Chuck Wepner on the undercard at New York's Shea Stadium. It wasn't much of a match; Andre humiliated the heavyweight contender.

In 1987, Andre stunned fans when he turned rule-breaker out of frustration over not getting a World title match with Hulk Hogan. In their WrestleMania III bout, the "Hulkster" slammed and pinned Andre, dealing him his first loss in the U.S. in 15 years. The contest drew a record 93,173 fans to the Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan.

On February 5, 1988, in Indianapolis, Andre finally won the World title, after Ted DiBiase hired him to win the belt for him. When it was revealed that DiBiase had paid referee Earl Hebner to officiate the match in place of his identical twin brother, Dave Hebner, WWF President Jack Tunney stripped Andre of the title.

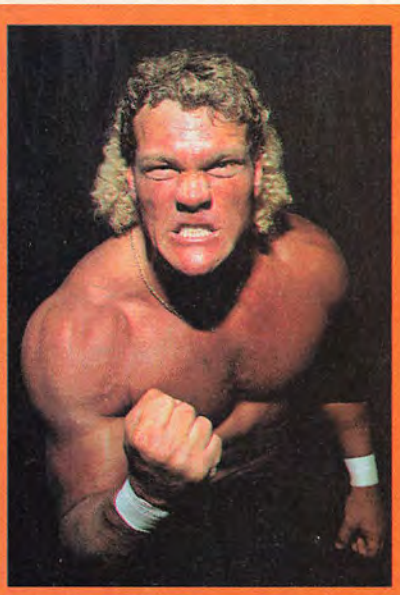
Andre became a fan favorite again after being attacked by Earthquake in 1991. By then, he had begun wrestling much less frequently, occasionally competing in Japan. His last U.S. appearance came in September 1992 at WCW's Clash of the Champions, where he greeted fans. His last wrestling appearance came three months later when he teamed with Shohei "Giant" Baba in Japan.

"Andre truly was the gentle giant," Senior Editor Bill Apter recalled. "I covered dozens, if not hundreds, of his matches, and as vicious as he could be to opponents in the ring, he was as kind to fans outside the ring. I can't imagine we'll ever again see anyone quite like him."

We are proud to posthumously present the 1993 Editors' Award to Andre the Giant. □

YOUR UNOFFICIAL/OFFICIAL AWARDS FOR 1993

Since we began soliciting them for our "Achievement '85" edition, your "Unofficial/Official Awards" have become a favorite year-end feature for many. This is where we ask readers to invent outrageous awards for the year just past, then bestow those awards upon appropriately deserving recipients. It's fun, it's creative, and it's an annual celebration of all (or at least part!) of the wildness and uniqueness inherent in this unique sport. So here we go again—well, here you go again, actually!—with your "Unofficial/Official Awards For 1993."



All Bark, No Bite ... Again: Sid Vicious
—Tony Troglin, Gruetli-Laager, TN

Biggest Hump: Bastion Booger
—Chris Roberts, Houston, TX

Best Berserker Impersonation: The Equalizer
—Chris Roberts, Houston, TX

Best Entrance Music: Ludvig Borga
—Jimmy Gialelis, Waukegan, IL

Best Hairdo (tie): Doink the Clown & Maxx Payne
—Lucas Dickinson, Columbus, IN

Best Interview: Hawk
—Greg Necastro, Doraville, GA

Best-Looking Championship Belt: WWF Intercontinental
—Chris Aiken, Nacogdoches, TX

Best New Manager: Johnny Polo
—James Littig, Memphis, TN

Best Reason Not To Watch *Murphy Brown*: *WWF Monday Night Raw*
—Steve Walles, Stoneham, MA

Best Reason To Tune Into Wrestling: Missy Hyatt
—Rob Saler, Olney, IL

Best Rulebreaker Turned Good: Cactus Jack
—Allen C. Trembone, Staten Island, NY

Best Unisex Wrestler: Miss Texas
—Tony Hawthorne, Baltimore, MD

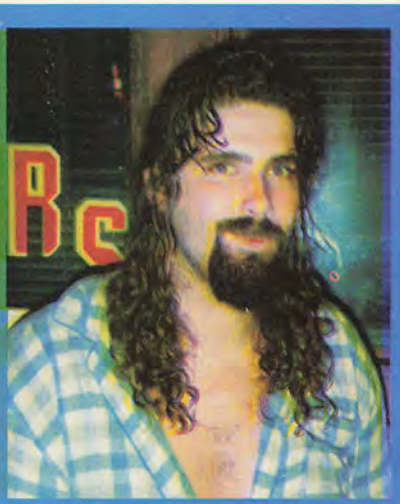
Best Wrestling TV Host: Todd Pettengill
—Richard van Es, The Netherlands

Biggest Fluke Of The Year: The Quebecers defeat the Steiners for the WWF World tag team title
—Scott Wilson, Wellston, OH

Bloodiest Card Of The Year: ECW's Ultra Clash '93
—Sadiya Witherspoon, Philadelphia, PA

Burger King Employee Of The Year: Jerry Lawler
—Craig Spoto, Montville, NJ

Cliche Count Of The Year: Gorilla Monsoon at The Royal Rumble
—Dean Ayass, East Sussex, England



Howard Stern's Hair Of The Year: Cactus Jack
—Frank Mejia, Santa Ana, CA

Is He "The Man" Or Not?: Ric Flair
—Gina Brandt, Hampton, IA

Come Back Soon ... Please!: The Ultimate Warrior
—Scott Hibbs, Muskegon, MI

Cut, That's A Wrap: The break-up of The Hollywood Blonds
—Jeremy Painter, Luray, VA

Dances With Chopsticks: Yoshi Kwan
—Rita M. Buda, Chicago, IL

Deadliest Weapon Of The Year: Jim Cornette's tennis racket
—Michael Sernosk, Kitchener, Ontario

Disappearance Of The Year: "Dirty White Girl" Kimberly
—Chris Sealy, Astoria, NY

Excellence Of Electrocution: Harley Race & his electric cattle prod
—Roger Coghill, Omaha, NE

Fabio Wannabe: Rick Martel
—Robbie Hensley, Old Washington, OH

Filed For Bankruptcy And Liquidated: Money Inc.
—Rita M. Buda, Chicago, IL

Five-Minute Penalty For High-Sticking: Scott Steiner
—Adam Crites, Twenty-Nine Palms, CA

Foghorn Leghorn Of Wrestling: Col. Robert Parker
—Shelby Lambert, Springfield, MO

Future User Of Rogaine: Paul E. Dangerously
—Kelly Blankenship, Decaturville, TN

Geezers At Caesars: Megamaniacs vs. Money Inc. at WrestleMania IX
—Genevieve Romeo, Yonkers, NY

George Steele Wannabe: Mike Davis
—Steven Protonotarios, College Point, NY

Grace Under Fire: Paul Roma
—Dora Nix, Easley, SC

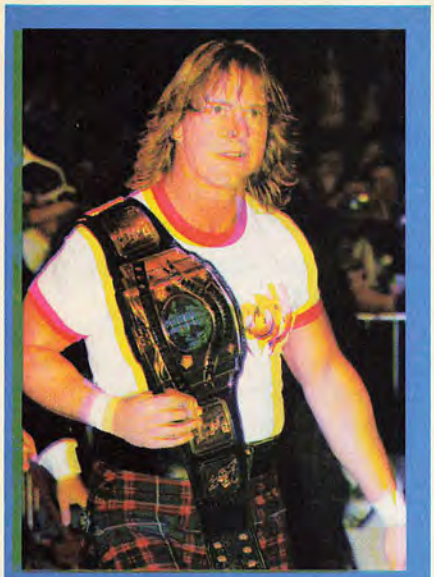
He Came, He Saw, He Conquered: Jim Cornette
—Stephen Sarro, Lynnfield, MA

He'll Be Wrestling Even After He Dies: The Sheik
—Mike Schwalen, Richfield, MN

He's A Loudmouthed, Arrogant, Pompous, Miserable Lowlife ... But He Sure Is Funny: Jerry Lawler
—Richard van Es, The Netherlands

He's Still A Winner In My Book: Barry Horowitz
—Michael Zborowski, Philadelphia, PA

Most Likely To Be On A Chain Gang: Brian Christopher
—Walter Petty, Evansville, IN



Most Missed Wrestler: Roddy Piper
—Matt Alford, Germantown, TN

Hey, Where's Luigi?: Super Mario
—Matt Bouman, Holland, MI

***Hooked On Phonics* Spelling Bee Winner:** Jeff "Double J" Jarrett
—Ricky Pascoe, Aliquippa, PA

If It's Tuesday, I Must Be A Fan Favorite (tie): Lex Luger & Jerry Lawler
—Harry Simon, Las Vegas, NV

"I Just Came From The Orient And I Still Don't Know The Arts": Yoshi Kwan
—Achilles Colon, Brooklyn, NY

Instant Replay Award: Marty Jannetty
—Marc Florio, Short Hills, NJ

I Saw It And I Still Can't Believe It: Dusty Wolfe as a (WWC) champion
—James Sipes, Fajarod, Puerto Rico

"I've Fallen And I Can't Get Up": Shockmaster
—Dave Pence, Baltimore, MD

Knucklehead Award: Rick Rude uses brass knuckles at Fall Brawl to break Ric Flair's figure-four leglock
—Matt Stepler, Woodstock, IL

Kodak Moment: Hulk Hogan Loses WWF World title at King of the Ring
—Harry Simon, Las Vegas, NV

Line Of The Year: "You're not the Burger King, you're the Dairy Queen." (Tiny Tim to Jerry Lawler)
—Greg Robertson, Des Moines, IA

Little Richard Wannabe: Johnny B. Badd
—Abdulmalik Sani, Jamaica, NY

Louisville Slugger: Erik Watts
—Anita Seelsford, Pensacola, FL

Man Of Steel: Lex Luger
—Jeremy Gottesman, Brooklyn, NY

Maybe His Vocabulary Will Increase To Four Words In 1994: Yokozuna
—Tony John Doran, Escanaba, MI

Mediocre ... Maybe, But Certainly Not "Perfect": Curt Hennig
—James Graham, Lockport, NY

Most Anticipated Comeback: Dusty Rhodes
—Marty Kibler, Greensboro, MD

Most Controversial Piece Of Hardware: NWA title
—Charles Lemons Jr., Okay, OK

Most Deserved Attack Of The Year: Crush assaults Randy Savage on *Monday Night Raw*
—Justin Puglia, Brooklyn, NY

Opie Taylor Lookalike: Bob Backlund
—Daniel Cumbe, Pasadena, CA

Poster Child For ICOPRO: The Kid
—Michael Zborowski, Phila., PA

Most Improved Promotion: ECW
—Dan Adam, Tacoma, WA

Most Likely To Cheat On Taxes: Irwin R. Schyster
—Keith Simmons, Fort Hood, TX

Most Likely To Eat An Opponent: Yokozuna
—Jonathan Jeans, Ashland City, TN

Most Likely To Ride A Camel Backward: Bobby Heenan
—Stephen Childs, Springfield, VT

Most Likely To Win ECW Tag Team Title In 1994: Philadelphia Phillies John Kruk & Pete Incaviglia
—R.C. Price, Mesa, AZ

Most Underrated Wrestler (tie): Irwin R. Schyster & Chris Candido
—Barbara Hoff, Phillipsburg, NJ

Most Volatile Ring Entrance: Rick Steamboat
—Liz Adkins, Kansas City, MO

Move Of The Year: Big Van Vader's moonsault
—Alex Goodmalloy, Annapolis, MD

Needs To Be Like Mike—Retired: Paul Orndorff
—Charles Whitney, Willet, NY

New York Mets' Worst Record Award: Virgil
—Matthew Woolf, Freehold, NJ

Next USWA Champion: Vince McMahon?
—Timothy Vachula, Pittsfield, MA

***Oooooo La La* Of The Year:** Ric Flair & Fifi
—Jeremy Johnson, Plymouth, MI

Our Loss Is Their Gain: Jim Ross leaves WCW for the WWF
—Lorrie Lee, Pittsburgh, PA

Pass The Salt: Mr. Fuji
—Tim Eckhoff, Kearney, NE

Pick A Name And Stick With It (tie): Johnny Polo & Irwin R. Schyster
—Steven Diviney, Bedford, TX

Preliminary Wrestler Of The Year: P.J. Walker
—Albert Martinez, North Bergen, NJ

Royal Pain: Lord Steven Regal
—Jesse Nieto Jr., Ottawa, OH

Separated At Birth: The Nasty Boys & Beavis & Butt-head
—Paul Hughes, Bowie, TX

Puff The Magic Dragon Award: Rick Steamboat
—Paul L. Ostasiewicz, Willmar, MN

Quickest Ticket Out Of The WWF: Anyone managed by Harvey Wippleman
—R.C. Price, Mesa, AZ

Quickly Forgotten WCW World Champ: Ron Simmons
—Bill Makuicka, Aurora, IL

Real "Burger King": Bret Hart
—Sean Underhill, Louisville, KY

Retire Already: Sting
—Jeremy Fein, Staten Island, NY

Reunion Of The Year: Jesse Ventura & Gene Okerlund
—Jose Garza, Pittsburg, CA

Rulebreaker Has The Title, So I'll Turn Fan Favorite: Lex Luger
—Ralph Royland Jr., Granville, MA

Seeing Quadruple: Four Doinks at Survivor Series
—Jim Dupree, Carpentersville, IL

Separated At Birth: Jim Ross & Rush Limbaugh
—James Hawks, Galesburg, IL

Shocker Of The Year: WWF acknowledging other federations
—Bill Robison, Waterford, MI

Should Have Rested On His Laurels: Bob Backlund
—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Stick A Fork In Him, He's Done: Hulk Hogan
—Stephen Sarro, Lynnfield, MA

Still Despised After All These Years: Col. DeBeers
—Jeff Somjak, Issaquah, WA

Surprise Of The Year: Jack Tunney makes a good decision
—Billy Booker, Lynchburg, VA

Takes A Licking And Keeps On Ticking: Bob Armstrong
—Travis Edgeworth, Mobile, AL

Tall Tale Of The Year: Vince McMahon claiming Giant Gonzales is eight-feet tall
—Price Morris, Austin, TX

Take A Shower: Bastion Booger
—John Siget, Rochester, PA

Tennessee Turncoat: Jeff Jarrett
—Barbara Jo Collins, Moatesville, WV

The True Immortal: Andre the Giant
—Todd Carlson, Glendale, AZ

She's No Beauty, She's The Beast: Luna Vachon
—Paul Hughes, Bowie, TX

Tatanka Wannabe: Charlie Norris
—Michael Puglia, Brooklyn, NY

The Voice Of Any Wrestling Arena: Howard Finkel
—Mark Thompson, Wilmington, DE

They're Shrinking Their Own Brains: The Headshrinkers
—Tim Woo, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Took A Beating And Kept On Eating: Yokozuna
—Zeke Peas, New York, NY

Turncoat Of The Year: Shane Douglas
—Bill Pope, Tacoma, WA

Ugly Duckling: Chris Candido
—Pam Brewer, Jefferson, TN

When Will There Be A Champion?: IWCCW
—Bruce Weeden, Schenectady, NY

Why Can't All Pay-Per-Views Be Like This?: WCW's Beach Blast
—Keith Jennings, Lakeville, MN

Winner And Still Undisputed Champion Of Biased Journalists: Bill Apter
—Rich Sirko, Toledo, OH

Wish You Were Back: Miss Elizabeth
—Marc Pecoraro, Fair Lawn, NJ

Woman Of The Year: Tammy Fytch
—Randy Brewer, Jefferson City, TN

World's Worst Manager: Missy Hyatt
—Lisa Robinson, Meshoppen, PA

Wounded Wolf: Barry Windham
—Dave Goldberg, Clark, NJ

Worst Arithmetic: The Four (?) Horsemen
—Gordon Grice, Fayetteville, AR

Worst-Dressed Manager: Jim Cornette
—Ray Lynn Smith, Saginaw, MI

Worst Excuse For A Wrestling Announcer: Joe Fowler
—Marc Gandert, Cincinnati, OH

Worst Disguise Of The Year: Marty Jannetty at *WWF Monday Night Raw*
—Sabra E. Moody, San Antonio, TX

Worst Outfits Since Capt. Lou Albano: Giant Gonzales
—John Doonan, Long Beach, NY

Wrestler Of The Century: Ric Flair
—Dave Goldberg, Clark, NJ

Wrestler Of The '90s: Steve Austin
—Natalie Morrison, Munhall, PA

Wrestler With The Bark And Bite: Rick Steiner
—Michele Panchak, Seneca, PA

Wrestler With The Best-Looking Beard: Adam Bomb
—Jeremy Lorence, Edison, NJ

Yee-Ha!: The Smokin' Gunns
—Jesse Nieto, Jr., Ottawa, OH

Yes, I'm Dead, So Please Don't Wake Me: The Undertaker
—Robert McCarthy, Billerica, MA

You're All Wet (tie): Bobby Heenan, Luna Vachon, & Bam Bam Bigelow
—George Walkley, Cincinnati, OH

Yo-Yo Career Of The Year: Razor Ramon
—Robert van Peer, Chatsworth, CA □

1994 PREDICTIONS

Here we go again with a section in our year-end issue that's a sure reader favorite. Though this year we neglected to ask readers to send in thoughts about what might happen in wrestling over the next 12 months, most of you came through anyway. As we've come to expect, responses were funny and slightly warped. However, looking at our last year-end issue (cover-dated March 1993), we found that some predictions were very accurate. For instance, Peter Schifiani of Highland, New York, predicted that Lex Luger and The Lightning Kid would enter the WWF. Who will be the most accurate seers for 1994? Check this issue a year from now to find out!

Hulk Hogan will make a new movie called *The Old Has-Been* ... **Diesel** will open a new gas station in his hometown ... **The Ultimate Warrior** will become the new **Fabio** ... **Yokozuna** will lose 100 pounds on the Nutri/System plan ... **Johnny Polo** will take up swimming and come to the ring wearing a bathing suit ...**Jeff Jarrett** will sing the National Anthem at WrestleMania X.

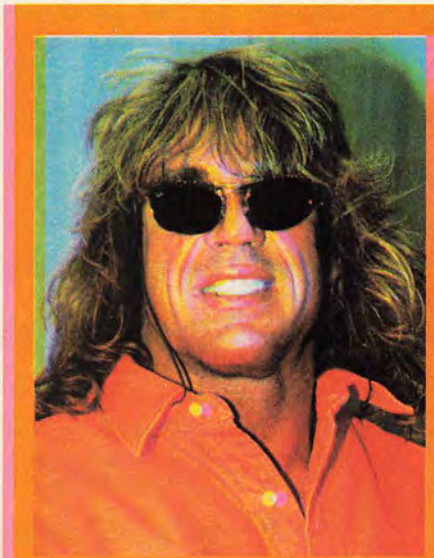
—Joanne Gialelis, Waukegan, IL

Ric Flair will form **The Four Horsemen** in the WWF. The group will consist of Flair, **Arn Anderson**, **Bret Hart**, and **Lex Luger**. They will feud with the **"Foreign Hellraisers,"** a group consisting of **Yokozuna**, **Ludvig Borga**, **The Great Muta**, and **Pat Tanaka** ... **Tatanka** will become the first WWF TV champion by defeating **Adam Bomb** in a tournament final ... **The Undertaker** will win the WWF World title ... **Sting** will win the WCW World, NWA, and U.S. titles to become the "Triple Crown" champion.

—S. Protonotarious, College Point, NY

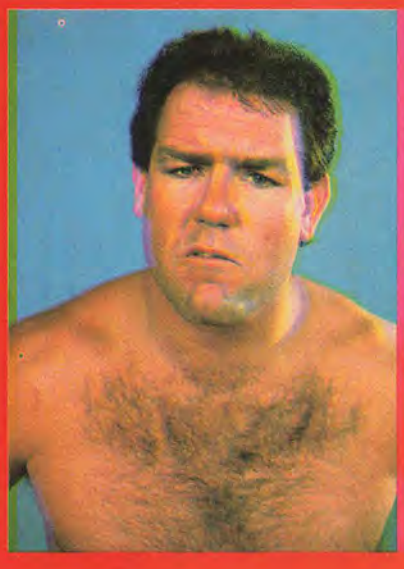
Bret Hart will steal **Jerry Lawler's** crown ... **Sid Vicious** will become either U.S. champion or NWA champion by August ... **Ron Simmons** and **Ice Train** will feud, then make up ... **Ric Flair** will turn rulebreaker for three months, then retire after a loss to **The Kid**.

—Chris Moss, Lomita, CA



Ted DiBiase will become the fourth Horseman ... **Dusty Rhodes** and **Ric Flair** will form a tag team ... **Vince McMahon** will wrestle **Jerry Lawler** at WrestleMania ... **Tully Blanchard** (with manager **Brother Love**) and **The Ultimate Warrior** will make comebacks ... **The Heavenly Bodies** will feud with **Bobby Eaton** and **Stan Lane** ... WCW will hold a "Best Horseman" tournament to compete with the WWF's "King Of The Ring." Guest referee will be **J.J. Dillon** ... Slamboree '94 will have a **Larry Zbyszko** vs. **Bruno Sammartino** rematch ... **Madusa Miceli** will return to WCW to manage **Arn Anderson** and **Paul Roma** against **The Nasty Boys** with **Missy Hyatt** ... **Hulk Hogan** will win a sixth world title and his first in WCW by beating **Rick Rude** at Beach Blast ... **Italian Stallion** will accidentally eat his plate at a spaghetti-eating contest ... The WWF and WCW will mention each other on their respective telecasts.

—Travis Edgeworth, Mobile, AL



Hulk Hogan will return for WrestleMania, then announce his retirement ... **Jerry Lawler** will get a job at Burger King ... **Bastion Booger** will take a bath ... **Ron Simmons**, **Cactus Jack**, and **Sid Vicious** will enter the WWF ... **Randy Savage** will retire in the summer ... **Doink the Clown** will win the Intercontinental title at SummerSlam ... **Lex Luger** and **Ludvig Borga** will feud late into the year, culminating in a loser-leaves-the-WWF match at SummerSlam ... **Yokozuna** will sit on **Jim Cornette** and **Mr. Fuji**.

—Dan Wahlers, Succasunna, NJ

Bob Backlund will land the part of Opie in a *Return To Mayberry* Easter special ... **Irwin R. Schyster** will become the new spokesman for H & R Block ... **Jim Cornette** will become the new U.S. ambassador to Japan ... **Jerry Lawler** will humiliate **Stu Hart** by dumping Geritol on his head at WrestleMania ... A masked **Little Richard** will enter WCW under the name **Johnny B. Good** and attack **Johnny B. Badd** ... **Big Van Vader** will change his name to **Darth Vader** ...

—Pete Ponzetti, Fenton, MI

The Rockers will re-form as rulebreakers and become tag team champions ... **Sid Vicious** still won't win a title ... **Cactus Jack** will retire due to injury ... **Sting** will join the WWF, along with **Van Hammer** and **Brian Christopher** ... **The Road Warriors** will re-form in WCW ... **Papa Shango** and **Jerry Lawler** will do a commercial for lighter fluid. The follow-up will star **Eddie Gilbert** ... **Barry Windham** and **Kamala** will form a lookalike team to battle **Keith** and **Kent Cole** in WCW ...**Virgil** will become **Ted DiBiase's** bodyguard again ... **The Kid** will win the first-ever WWF light heavyweight championship ... **Ric Flair** will finally retire.

—Dean Ayass, East Sussex, England

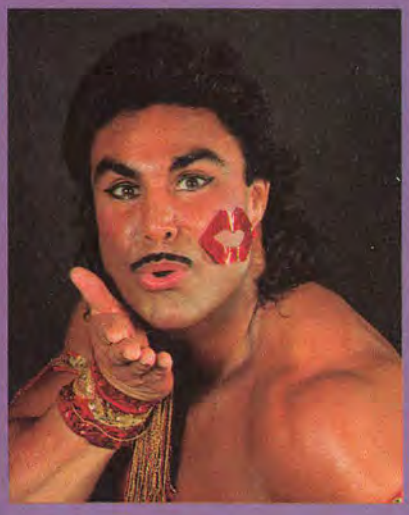
Vince McMahon will be voted Wrestler of the Year ... During WrestleMania, **Hulk Hogan** will receive the WWF World title by mail ... **Shawn Michaels** will regain the Intercontinental title ... The USWA title will change hands about 52 times ... The WWF will promote one of its pay-per-view cards in Germany.

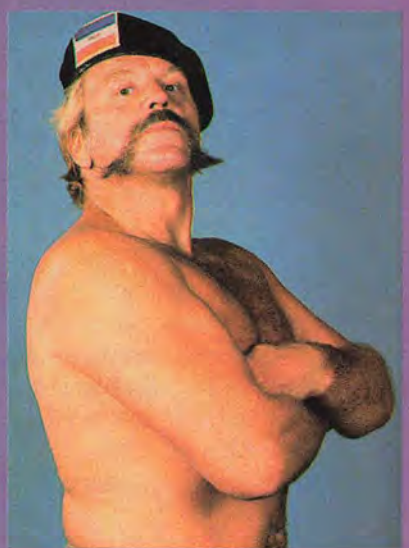
—Richard van Es, Den Helder, The Netherlands

Bret Hart will regain the WWF World title and take **Jimmy Hart** back as his manager ... **Big Van Vader** will retire **Ric**

Flair after a strap match at Slamboree ... WrestleMania X at Madison Square Garden will feature WWF stars against their WCW counterparts. Main event: **Hulk Hogan** vs. **Sting** ... **"Dr. Death" Steve Williams** will enter the WWF with **Dr. Jack Kevorkian** as his manager ... **Shawn Michaels** will move to WCW and win the World tag team title with **Rick Rude** ... **The Road Warriors** will meet and defeat every team from the WWF and WCW in one week, only to have their unbeaten streak ended by **"Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi** and **Barry Horowitz** ... **Hulk Hogan** will actually make a movie that's good.

—Jesse Nieto, Ottawa, OH





Johnny B. Badd will become a hated wrestler ... **Rick Rude** will return to the WWF and take on **Shawn Michaels** to see who the sexiest wrestler alive is ... **Ric Flair** will choose **Sting** as the fourth Horseman ... **Bret Hart** will win the Intercontinental title for the third time ... **The Undertaker** will team with **Papa Shango** in a team called "The Dark Ones" ... **Money Inc.** will team again, with **Johnny Polo** as their manager, and face **The Quebecers** ... **The Honky Tonk Man** will come back to the WWF to face **Jeff Jarrett** to see who the better musician is ... **Luna Vachon** will marry **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... **Ron Simmons** will team with **2 Cold Scorpio** ... **Doinks** will win the WWF tag team title ... **Giant Gonzales** will team with **Giant Baba** in WCW.

—Carlos Aponte, Brooklyn, NY

The fans at one WWF card will all have to go to the hospital when they smell **Bastion Booger** ... **Bret Hart** will regain the WWF World championship ... **Shawn Michaels** will capture the WCW World title ... IWCCW will not determine a champion until 1995 ... **Jimmy Del Ray** will start a feud with **Jim Cornette** ... **Missy Hyatt** will continue to be the nastiest lady in WCW.

—Tomas Quinones, Flushing, NY

Lex Luger will earn a rematch against **Yokozuna** at the Royal Rumble. Luger will defeat him and face **Bret Hart** at WrestleMania ... The WWF and SMW will combine for a pay-per-view special in the spring. Some of the matches: **Bret Hart** vs. **"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony**; **Razor Ramon** vs. **Brian Lee**; **Tatanka** and **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** vs. **Terry Funk** and **The Headshrinkers**; **"Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig** vs. **Kevin Sullivan**; and **Rick** and **Scott Steiner** vs. **The Bruise Brothers** ... Debuting in the WWF will be **The Colossal Kongs** and **Tex Slazenger** and **Shanghai Pierce** ... **Irwin R. Schyster** will move to WCW as **Mike Rotundo** ... **Jeff Gaylord** and **The Ultimate Warrior** will form "The Gladiators," a rulebreaking tag team. Gaylord will become "Falcon," while Ultimate Warrior will simply be "Warrior."

—Scott Rasso, East Moline, IL

Tammy Fytch and **Missy Hyatt** will form a tag team and challenge **Sherri Martel** and **Miss Texas** ... **"The Model" Rick Martel** and **Bastion Booger** will announce their intentions to market a new line of men's cologne ... **Maxx Payne** and **The Undertaker** will retire to pursue a career in heavy-metal music ... **The Hollywood Blonds** will patch up their differences and get back together ... **Col. Robert Parker** and **Dusty Rhodes** will open a new chain of fast-food restaurants; **Jerry Lawler** will turn down their offer to become part-owner ... **Col. DeBeers** will become a flag-waving American patriot.

—Alex Randle, Boca Raton, FL □

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arena reports

The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletters. Readers of *PWI Weekly* received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to *PWI Weekly*, see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

UNITED STATES

ARIZONA

PHOENIX—WCW at the Fairgrounds: **Lord Steven Regal** defeated **2 Cold Scorpio** ... **Davey Boy Smith** beat **Sid Vicious** by disqualification ... In a non-title match, **Big Van Vader** defeated **Cactus Jack** ... **Sting** & **Ric Flair** beat **The Nasty Boys.**
(10-22-93)

—Billy Charles

CALIFORNIA

STUDIO CITY—Slammers Wrestling Alliance at Slammers Gym: In a best-of-three falls match, SWF champion **Malicious Mike** and **Hombre De Oro** battled to a draw. Mike won the first fall, Oro the second, and both were counted out in the third. A rematch was scheduled for December 5 ... In a loser-leaves-SWA match, **Jeff Lindberg** defeated **Bill Pearl**, knocking him down with a knee-brace to the head and then using a figure-four.
(11-07-93)

—Gregg John

FLORIDA

TAMPA—Pro Wrestling Attractions at the Sportatorium: **Victor Young** beat **Blue Flame I** ... **Linda Love** beat **Allison Royal** ... **Phillip Young** beat **Greg Australia** ... **The Dragonfly** beat **Silver Eagle** ... **Blue Flame II** fought to a time-limit draw with **Panama Jack** ... **The Heartbreaker** beat **Osani** ... **Lonnie Star** beat **Destroyer III** ... **Johnny Desmond** defeated **Jeff Haynor** ... **Luis Morales** beat **Richard Anderson** by disqualification ... **Ray** & **Armando Ayala** wrestled to a draw with **The New Style** ... **Oscar LeDoux** wrestled to a draw with **The Raven** ... **Jose Lopez** & **Bill Tyree** battled to a double-disqualification with **Mike Hanor** & **Manny Fernandez** ... **The Garbage Man** beat **Mr. X.**
(11-07-93)

—Shannon Rose

HUDSON—Hudson Sports Club: **Raul Mata** defeated **Nuclear Destroyer** ... **K.C. Carr** beat **Blaze** ... **Fire Cat** defeated **Randy Fuller** ... **Rick Thames** & **Sonny T** beat **Pat Powers** & **Billy Mack** ... **Rocky Johnson** defeated **Jumbo Barretta.**
(11-06-93)

—Shannon Rose

PLANT CITY—Plant City Wrestling Federation at the Plant City Auction: **Randy Fuller** defeated **The Tiger** ... **Luscious Luke** beat **Max the Destroyer** ... **Rico** defeated **Nuclear Assassin** by disqualification ... **Rick Thames** & **Sonny T** beat **Luis Estea** & **Raul Mata** ... **Rocky Johnson** and **Jerry Flynn** battled to a no-contest.
(11-03-93)

—Shannon Rose

SUNRISE—WWF at the Sunrise Musical Theatre: **Dave Heath, Cuban Assassin,** & **Little Louie** defeated **The Bushwhackers** & **Tiger Jackson** ... **Adam Bomb** beat **The Kid** ... **The Undertaker** defeated World champion **Yokozuna** by disqualification ... **Men on a Mission** beat **Barry Horowitz** & **Pat Tanaka** ... **Rick** & **Scott Steiner** defeated **The Headshrinkers** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** beat **Doink the Clown.**
(11-01-93)

—David Matthews

TAMPA—World Wrestling Alliance "Halloween Terror" at the Sportatorium: **The Mechanic** beat **Dennis the Menace** ... **The Masked Assassin** & **The Zebra Kid** beat **Chris Nelson** & **Jammin' Johnny** by disqualification ... **The Masked Stinger** beat **The Grave Digger** ... **The Ace Steel** battled **Butch Long** to a 20-minute draw ... ICWA tag team champions **The Southern Posse** beat **The Armed Forces** ... **Jammin' Johnny** won a battle royal, eliminating **Butch Long** ... **Bill Pain** beat **Bill Wolf** ... **Randy Fuller** battled **Nasty Ned Brady** to a double countout.
(10-30-93)

—Shannon Rose

GEORGIA

KENNESAW—WCW at the Crystal Chandelier: **Mike Winner** defeated **Don Sanders** ... **Buddy Lee Parker** beat **Craig Pittman** ... **Tex Slazenger** & **Shanghai Pierce** defeated **Terry Taylor** & **Bobby Walker** ... **Brad Armstrong** beat **Tommy Rich** by disqualification ... **Keith Cole** defeated **Michael "P.S." Hayes.**
(11-02-93)

—George Field

FORT OGLETHORPE—Tri-States Wrestling at the Battlefield Flea Mall: **Outlaw II** pinned **Frank E. Lee** ... **Jason** beat **Tracy Black** ... **"Cowboy" Randy Steel** defeated **Carl Stiles** ... **Woody Woodchuck** & **Johnny Blaze** beat **Rawhead Rex** & **Outlaw II** ... **Sam Colt** & **Rick Justice** defeated **Joel Travis** & **Frank E. Lee** ... In an "I quit" match, **Ritchie Dye** beat **Bobby Hayes.**
(10-29-93)

—Bill Needham

KENNESAW—WCW at the Crystal Chandelier: **Brian Anderson** defeated **The Gambler** ... **Terry Taylor** beat **The Ace** ... **Michael Hayes** defeated **Bobby Walker** ... **The Equalizer** beat **Mike Winner** ... **Thunder** & **Lightning** defeated **Buddy Lee Parker** & **Big Bad John** ... **Tex Slazenger** & **Shanghai Pierce** beat **Tom Zenk** & **Jim Steele.**
(10-26-93)

—Cory Harmon

ILLINOIS

WESTCHESTER—Windy City Wrestling at St. Joseph High School: Lightweight champion **Christopher Daniels** pinned **Danny Dominion** ... League champion **Mike Anthony** battled to a draw with **Kevin Quinn** ... Middleweight champion **R. Valentino** pinned **Ken Erickson** ... **Karate Kid** beat **Lord Littlebrook** ... **Darkman** pinned **Harper Jackson** ... **Bo Zane** & **Haystacks Ross** defeated **The Manson Brothers** ... Heavyweight champion **K.C. Knight** won by reverse decision over **"Iron Mike" Samson** ... **Bo Zane** defeated **The Iron Sheik.**
(11-06-93)

—Steve Cain

INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS—Championship Wrestling from Indiana at Tyndall Armory: **Johnny Mercedes** defeated **Gary Anderson** ... **The Lumberjack** beat **Eric Fontaine** ... **Steven Dane** defeated **Sonny Rogers** ... **The California Kid** beat **P.C. Austin** ... In a lumberjack strap match, **Flash Flannagan** defeated **Mike Samples** ... **Chris Michaels** & **Todd Morton** beat **Brian Lee** & **Tracey Smothers** at 30:00.
(10-28-93)

—Sandy Daniels

KANSAS

HOISINGTON—Sunflower State Wrestling at the City Arena: **Real Deal** pinned **"Gambler" Rick Garrett**, who sunset-flipped Deal in an immediate rematch ... **Nightbreed** beat **The All Night Rockers** ... **Casey Cannon** pinned **TNT** ... **The Pony Express** pinned **Mr. Sawyer's Brotherhood of Pain** ... Kansas state heavyweight champion **The Panther** defeated **Psycho** ... **Tom Jones** and **"Hangman" Bobby Jaggers** battled to a double-disqualification ... **Wild Maverick** won a 20-man battle royal.
(10-30-93)

—Clark C. Peterson

KENTUCKY

LOUISVILLE—USWA at the Louisville Gardens: **Del Rios** beat **Moondog I** ... **Doomsday** defeated **Steve Marino** ... **PG-13** & **Midget D** beat **American Eagles** & **Little Eagle** ... **The Moondogs** defeated **Mike Anthony** & **Jeff Gaylord** ... **Brian Christopher** & **Doink the Clown** beat **Jeff Jarrett** & **Tony Falk** when Doink pinned Falk.
(10-26-93)

—Jerry Wilson

CUMBERLAND—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Cumberland County Civic Center: **Chris Candido** beat **Anthony Michaels** ... **Tim Horner** defeated **Tony Anthony** ... **Tracey Smothers** beat heavyweight champion **Brian Lee** by disqualification ... **Rick Morton** & **Tim Horner** defeated **Tom Prichard** & **Jim Cornette** ... **Tracey Smothers** won a battle royal.
(10-16-93)

—Millicent Gillingham

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE—WWF at the Baltimore Arena: **Owen Hart** defeated **Bastion Booger** ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** beat **Irwin R. Schyster** by countout ... **The Headshrinkers** defeated **The Smoking Gunns** ... **Lex Luger** beat **Ludvig Borga** ... **Bret Hart** defeated **Jerry Lawler** ... **Men on a Mission** beat **Axl Rotten** & **The Executioner** ... World champion **Yokozuna** defeated **The Undertaker**.
(10-23-93)

—Ray Ney

NORTH EAST—ECW at Cecil Community College: **Tommy Cairo** defeated **Mr. X** ... **Jason Knight** beat **Canadian Wolfman** ... **J.T. Smith** defeated **Super Destroyer II** ... **The Sandman** beat **Rockin' Rebel** ... **Tony Stetson** & **Johnny Hot Body** defeated **Ian** & **Axl Rotten** ... **Jimmy Snuka** beat **Nikolai Volkoff** ... **Shane Douglas** defeated **Flyboy Rocko Rock** ... **J.T. Smith** won a battle royal to become ECW Maryland champion.
(10-16-93)

—Bradley Latham

MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST—WWF at the Mullins Center, University of Massachusetts: **Owen Hart** pinned **Bastion Booger** ... **The Headshrinkers** (with **Afa**) beat **The Smoking Gunns** when **Samu** pinned **Billy Gunn** ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** pinned **Irwin R. Schyster** ... World champion **Yokozuna** (managed by **Mr. Fuji**) pinned **The Undertaker** (managed by **Paul Bearer**) ... World tag team champions **The Quebecers** defeated **Men on a Mission** when **Pierre** pinned **Mo** ... **Bret Hart** pinned **Bam Bam Bigelow** (managed by **Luna Vachon**) ... **Ludvig Borga** pinned **Lex Luger** with a clothesline.
(10-21-93)

—Ray Gore

MICHIGAN

TAYLOR—All-American Pro Wrestling: **Tasmaniac** beat **Shinobi** ... **Bobby Blaze** defeated **Chris Candido** ... **Judge Dredd** & **Samson** battled to a double-disqualification with **Ron Powers** & **Scott D'Amore** ... **Sabu** defeated **Rob Van Dam** ... **Hacksaw Duggan** beat **Papa Shango** ... **Mike Awesome** defeated **Horace Boulder.**
(11-05-93)

—Ernie Avery

DETROIT—WWF at Joe Louis Arena: **Owen Hart** pinned **Bastion Booger** ... **The Headshrinkers** beat **Men on a Mission** when **Samu** pinned **Mo** ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** beat **Irwin R. Schyster** by countout ... **Lex Luger** pinned **Ludvig Borga** with a steel forearm smash after World champion **Yokozuna** and manager **Mr. Fuji** banzaied him ... **Rick** & **Scott Steiner** beat World tag team champions **The Quebecers** by disqualification as Scott hit **Pierre** with a Frankensteiner, and **Jacques** came in and hit Scott with his belt during the pin ... World champion **Yokozuna** pinned **The Undertaker** after hitting him with a salt bucket ... In a steel cage match, **Bret Hart** defeated **Jerry Lawler,** with interference from both **The Black Knight** and **Owen Hart.**
(10-28-93)

—Gary Worenchek

MISSOURI

SEDALIA—WCW at the State Fairgrounds: **Big Sky** beat **Steve Ray** ... TV champion **Lord Steven Regal** defeated **2 Cold Scorpio** ... **Paul Orndorff** beat **Erik Watts** ... **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** defeated **The Equalizer** ... **Sid Vicious** beat **Ron Simmons** ... **Sting** & **Rick Steamboat** defeated **The Nasty Boys** ... **Dustin Rhodes** beat **Rick Rude** by disqualification.
(10-17-93)

—Brett Stanley

NEW HAMPSHIRE

PLYMOUTH—New England Wrestling Federation at Plymouth State College: **The Slayer Brothers** beat **Bruno Scarletti** & **Rip Morrison** ... **Max Moon** defeated **Bob Evans** ... **Brittany Brown** beat **Jamie West** by countout ... **Mr. Hughes** defeated **Tony Roy** .. **Paul Bunyan** beat **Bulldozer** by disqualification ... **Nailz** defeated **Johnny Royal** ... **Brian Delphia** beat **Mad Dog Richard** ... **Bill Wilcox** defeated **Freight Train Fulton** by disqualification ... **Demolition Ax** beat **Richard Charland** by disqualification ... **The Bushwhackers** defeated **El Loco** & **Kato.**
(10-17-93)

—Jay Lyons

NEW JERSEY

LAKE HIAWATHA—East Coast Wrestling Federation: **Metal Head** defeated **Powerhouse Chuck** ... **Gino Caruso, Rocky Jones,** & **Special K** beat **The Executioners** & **Kodiak Bear** ... **Inferno Kid** beat **Christian Greed** ... **Devon Storm** and **Jacknife Johnny** fought to a double-disqualification ... **Blaster** & **Punisher** defeated **Mickey Mayhem** & **Dennis Knight.**
(10-20-93)

—Lester Barton

TRENTON—IWCCW at The Polish American Club: **Damien Stone** beat **Ricky Star** ... **Tommy Dreamer** defeated **Kodiak Bear** ... **Manny Fernandez** defeated **Ray Odyssey** ... **Tasmaniac** pinned **Gino Caruso** ... **Primo Carnera III** beat **The Terminator** ... **Koko B. Ware** beat **Greg Valentine** by disqualification ... **Tony Atlas** beat **Tommy Dreamer.**
(10-15-93)

—Bret Ware

NEW YORK

FONDA—Galaxy Wrestling Federation at Fonda-Fultonville High School: **Tommy Dreamer** beat **Tony Atlas** ... **Hillbilly Jim** & **Cousin Luke** beat **The Troublemakers** ... **Ray Odyssey** defeated **The Tasmaniac** ... **Little Louie** beat **Little Doomer** ... **Vic Steamboat** beat **Honky Tonk Man.**
(11-06-93)

—Don Liable

UNIONDALE—WWF at the Nassau Coliseum: **Owen Hart** beat **Bastion Booger** ... **Razor Ramon** & **Curt Hennig** beat **Irwin R. Schyster** & **Diesel** ... **Bob Backlund** pinned **Duane Gill** ... **Bret Hart** beat **Jerry Lawler** by disqualification when a masked Knight interfered on Lawler's behalf ... **Rick Martel** pinned **Marty Jannetty** ... **The Smoking Gunns** beat World tag team

champions **The Quebecers** by countout ... **Lex Luger** pinned **Ludvig Borga.**
(10-29-93)

—Robert Cariole

POUGHKEEPSIE—*WWF Monday Night Raw* at Mid-Hudson Civic Center: **Curt Hennig** & **Tatanka** beat World tag team champions **The Quebecers** by disqualification ... **Sabu** beat **Scott Taylor** ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** beat **Bastion Booger** ... **Curt Hennig** beat **The Executioner** ... The **Smoking Gunns** beat **Well Dunn** by disqualification when **Harvey Wippleman** interfered ... **Adam Bomb** beat **Virgil** ... **The Kid** & **Marty Jannetty** fought to a double-countout ... **Diesel** beat **Dan Dubee** ... **Crush** beat **Phil Apollo** ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** beat **Irwin R. Schyster** by countout.
(10-18-93)

—Blackjack Brown

SOUTHAMPTON—IWCCW at Southampton High School: **The Terminator** pinned **Gino Caruso** ... **Frankie "Third Degree" Burns** beat **The Great Marteen** ... **Primo Carnera III** beat **Tony Atlas** by disqualification ... **Manny Fernandez** beat **Tommy Dreamer** ... **Tasmaniac** beat **Ray Odyssey** ... **Koko B. Ware** beat **Greg Valentine** by disqualification.
(10-16-93)

—Bret Ware

NORTH CAROLINA

SMITHFIELD—Carolina Championship Wrestling Alliance "Thanksgiving Thunder" at the Middle School: **Pat Anderson** beat **Buckshot** ... **The Dream Team** defeated **Bam Bam Stevenson** & **Jimmy Valentine** ... **The Intruder** beat **The Iron Chief** ... **The Country Club** defeated **The East-West Connection** ... **Kahn the Warlord** beat **Bam Bam Stevenson** (subbing for **The Dog**) ... **Mitch Ryder** defeated **Ivan Koloff** by disqualification ... **Bam Bam Stevenson** won a battle royal, last eliminating **Kahn the Warlord** and **Steve Storm.**
(11-06-93)

—Henry Dean

KINGS MOUNTAIN—Pro Wrestling Federation "Halloween Bloodfest '93" at the Armory: Tag team champions **George South** & **Terry Austin** defeated **Gladiator II** & **American G.I.** ... **Cruel Connection II beat Killdozer** ... With **George South** dressed as a referee, heavyweight champion **Austin Steele** defeated **Italian Stallion** by countout ... **Star Ryder** pinned junior heavyweight champion **Flaming Youth** to win the title ... In a 10-man battle royal where every wrestler dressed as someone else on the PWF roster, **Black Scorpion** won, eliminating **Star Ryder**. Near the end of the battle royal, he revealed himself to be **Italian Stallion.**
(10-30-93)

—Brock Chandler

OHIO

RICHFIELD—WWF at the Coliseum: **Rick Martel** pinned **Marty Jannetty** ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** beat **Irwin R. Schyster** by countout ... **The Headshrinkers** beat **The Smoking Gunns** ... **Lex Luger** beat **Ludvig Borga** ... **Owen Hart** pinned **Bastion Booger** ... **Rick** & **Scott Steiner** beat World tag team champions **The Quebecers** by disqualification ... **Bret Hart** beat **Jerry Lawler** in a cage match.
(11-06-93)

—John Duffy

OKLAHOMA

LONE GROVE—Power Zone Wrestling Alliance at the High School: **"Gambler" Rick Garrett** pinned **"Beach Boy" Shawn Summers** ... **Shadow** & **Liberty Kid** defeated **The Psychos** ... **Tom Jones** beat **Black Bart** by disqualification after **Mr. Sawyer** interfered ... **Casey Cannon** pinned **TNT** ... **The Pony Express** double-pinned **The Brotherhood of Pain** ... **Kevin Von Erich** pinned **Cowboy Ed Robinson.**
(11-06-93)

—Clark C. Peterson

OREGON

PORTLAND—Championship Wrestling USA at the Interstate Pavilion: **Buddy Wayne** battled to a draw with **Karl Pope** ... **Jim Pope** fought to a draw with **Nick Danger** ... **Ryuma Go** beat **Larry Oliver** with a sleeperhold ... **John Rambo** and **C.W. Bergstrom** were both disqualified when Rambo used brass knuckles and Bergstrom used a chair ... **Col. DeBeers** fought **Sumito** to a six-minute draw ... In a double chain match, **Bruiser Brian** & **C.W. Bergstrom** beat **Lou Andrews** & **Jesse Barr** by disqualification.
(11-06-93)

—Kenn Jones

PENNSYLVANIA

BENSALEM—NWA "Bensalem Bash '93" at Armstrong Middle School: **Tito Santana** pinned **The Evil Clown** at 12:38 ... In an eight-man "Bensalem Street Fight," **Ray Odyssey** & **Johnny Gunn** won, last eliminating **The Blackhearts.** Also competing were **Boy Gone Bad** & **Chris "The Edge"** and **Kamala** & **Tasmaniac** ... **The Ninja Turtle** pinned **Ed "The Razor"** at 5:15 ... In a loser-gets-spanked match, **Sherri Martel** (assisted by **Cathy Fitzpatrick**) pinned **Jim Cornette** (assisted by **Tammy Fytch**) at 10:46 ... **Hacksaw Duggan** pinned **Papa Shango** at 8:10 ... **Ted DiBiase** beat **Terry Funk** by countout at 17:00 ... In a steel cage match, **Sabu** pinned **Chris Candido** (advised by **Tammy Fytch**) at 17:41.
(10-30-93)

—Joe Vincent

HERSHEY—WWF at Hersheypark Arena: **Owen Hart** beat **Bastion Booger** ... **Bret Hart** pinned **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... **Lex Luger** pinned **Ludvig Borga** ... World champion **Yokozuna** pinned **The Undertaker** after a salt-bucket hit ... World tag team champions **The Quebecers** defeated **Men on a Mission** when **Jacques** pinned **Mo** ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** beat **Irwin R. Schyster** by countout, tying Schyster's tie to the ringpost ... **The Headshrinkers** defeated **The Smoking Gunns.**
(10-24-93)

—Timothy Walker

MORRISVILLE—Eastern Championship Wrestling at the High School: **The Super Destroyer** pinned **Max Thrasher** ... **Don E. Allen** & **Mr. X** defeated **The Hell Riders** when Allen pinned **H.D. Rider** ... **The Sandman** pinned **Chris Michaels** ... **Mr.**

"I don't suppose I have to tell you to behave yourself during this match, do I? "

Hughes pinned **Johnny Gunn** ... **Jimmy Snuka** pinned **The Warlord** ... **H.D. Rider** pinned **The Canadian Wolfman** ... **The Warlord** won an over-the-top battle royal, last eliminating **Jimmy Snuka.**
(10-22-93)

—Bart Orkline

RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE—WWF at the Civic Center: **Rick Martel** pinned **Marty Jannetty** with a reverse roll-up at 11:38 ... **Owen Hart** pinned **Bastion Booger** at 8:09 ... **Doink** pinned **Steve Lombardi** (substituting for **Bam Bam Bigelow)** at 10:30. **Luna Vachon** was in Lombardi's corner ... In a non-title casket match, **The Undertaker** defeated **Yokozuna** at 6:36 ... **Bob Backlund** (substituting for **Curt Hennig)** beat **Diesel** by disqualification at 5:02 when Diesel tossed referee **Earl Hebner** ... **The Smoking Gunns** defeated World tag team champions **The Quebecers** by countout at 12:29 ... **Lex Luger** pinned **Ludvig Borga** at 9:29.
(11-07-93)

—Dan Reilly & Karen Briggs

SOUTH CAROLINA

GREENVILLE—Black Star Promotions: **Johnny Flex** beat **Mr. Jam** by disqualification ... **Matt James** defeated **Ricky Starr** ... **T.C. Carter** beat **Tommy Casanova** by disqualification ... **Desperado II** defeated **Johnny Dollar** ... **Ivan Koloff** beat **Thunderfoot** ... **T.C. Carter, Masked Undertaker,** & **Max Miles** battled **Russian Assassin, Hans Hesler,** & **Helmut Hesler** to a double-disqualification.
(11-01-93)

—Frank Jones

TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE—USWA at the Coliseum: **American Eagle II** beat **Wolfie D** ... In a hubcap-on-pole match, **J.C. Ice** defeated **American Eagle I** ... In a midget match, **Little Eagle** beat **Midget D** ... **Brian Christopher** defeated **Reggie B. Fine** ... **Jeff Jarrett** beat **Doomsday** ... Tag team champions **Brian Christopher** & **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **The Moondogs.**
(11-06-93)

—Hank Davis

PIGEON FORGE—Smoky Mountain Wrestling: **Tim Horner** defeated **Tony Anthony** by disqualification ... **Rick Morton** beat **Jimmy Del Ray** ... **Robert Gibson** defeated **Ron Harris** by disqualification ... **Steve Armstrong** beat **Tom Prichard** ... **Tracey Smothers** defeated heavyweight champion **Brian Lee** by disqualification ... In a four-corners tag team match, **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **The Armstrongs, The Heavenly Bodies,** & **The Bruise Brothers.**
(10-23-93)

—Ron Donnelly

JOHNSON CITY—WCW at the Parks & Recreation Center: **Charlie Norris** beat **Tex Slazenger** ... **Big Caboose** defeated **Shanghai Pierce** by disqualification ... **Harlem Heat** beat **Ice Train** & **Lightning** ... **Michael Hayes** defeated **Tom Zenk** ... **Rick Rude** beat **Erik Watts** ... **Arn Anderson** defeated **Brian Pillman.**
(10-22-93)

—Myrna Carter

TEXAS

DALLAS—Global Wrestling Federation at the Sportatorium: **"Maniac" Mike Davis** defeated **John Hawk** ... **Moadib** beat **Bam Bam Richard** by submission ... **Black Bart** pinned **Chris Barrett** ... **Chris Adams** pinned **Brian Henning** ... **Rod Price** defeated **Scott Putski** by disqualification on a reverse decision ... **Action Jackson** beat heavyweight champion **Iceman Parsons** by disqualification due to outside interference by **Baboose.**
(11-05-93)

—Ron Yarborough

HOUSTON—American Wrestling Federation at Melody Lane Ballroom: **Chaz Taylor** defeated **Al "Too Sweet" Jones** ... **Doc Holliday** and **Wardog** battled to a double-disqualification ... **Skippy** beat **Sheik Abodhabi** ... **Wichita Willie** defeated **Gary "The Hog" Young** ... **Tugboat Taylor** beat **Jason the 13th.**
(10-30-93)

—B.J. Angel

AMARILLO—"High Country Chevy Free For All" at the Civic Center: **The Youngbloods (Mark** & **Chris Romero,** managed by **Ricky Romero)** defeated **Iceman Parsons** & **The California Stud** ... **Dan Spivey** beat **"Maniac" Mike Davis** ... **Stan Hansen** defeated **Big Bossman** ... **Dory Funk Jr.** & **Dick Murdoch** beat **The Heavenly Bodies** (managed by **Jim Cornette)** ... **Ted DiBiase** defeated **Tito Santana** by countout ... **Terry Funk** beat **Eddie Gilbert.**
(10-28-93)

—Morris McCrea

VIRGINIA

RURAL RETREAT—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the High School: **Tim Horner** defeated **Killer Kyle** ... In a non-title match, **Bobby Blaze** beat **Chris Candido** ... Heavyweight champion **Brian Lee** defeated **Tracey Smothers** ... **The Bruise Brothers** beat **The Heavenly Bodies** ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** battled **The Moondogs** to a no-contest.
(11-06-93)

—Jefferson Lee

WASHINGTON

VANCOUVER—Championship Wrestling USA at Uncle Milt's Pizza Emporium: **Karl Pope** battled to a time-limit draw with **Dane Rush** ... **Buddy Wayne** beat **Nick Danger** ... **The Silver Shadow** beat **Samson** by disqualification when **Dane Rush** and **Jesse Barr** interfered ... **John Rambo** beat **Larry Oliver** ... **C.W. Bergstrom** beat TV champion **Col. DeBeers** by disqualification when DeBeers pulled referee **Shawn Barr** into the path of a Bergstrom bodyblock ... **Crush** & **Bruiser Brian** beat **Jesse Barr** & **Ryuma Go** by countout.
(10-11-93)

—Kenn Jones

WISCONSIN

FORT McCOY—IWA: **Don Juan** defeated **Jackknife Jones** ... **Sandy Starr** beat **Satin Doll** ... **Koko B. Ware** defeated **Blake Beverly** by disqualification ... **Jackknife Jones** & **Satin Doll** beat **Don Juan** & **Sandy Starr** ... **Dr. X** defeated **Ronnie Vegas** ... **Big Bossman** beat **Nailz.**
(11-06-93)

—Brent Bennett

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

TORONTO, ONTARIO—Ricky Johnson's Canadian Wrestling Association: **Steve Ocean** beat **Danny Johnson** by disqualification ... **Sonny Baker** defeated **Mr. X** ... **Big Mac** beat **Jason Sterling** by disqualification ... **Ricky Johnson** defeated **TNT** (not the original) by disqualification ... **Dan Johnson** won a battle royal to become the first CWA champion.
(11-07-93)

—Alfonso MacDougall

TEULON, MANITOBA—West Four Wrestling Alliance: **Bruiser Bastien** defeated **Robbie Royce** ... **Tomahawk Swan** beat **Brian Jewel** ... **Ken Johnson** & **Steve Rivers** defeated **Atomic Punk** & **Dillon Powers** ... **E.Z. Ryder** beat **Bobby Jay** ... **The Natural** defeated **Chi Chi Cruz.**
(11-05-93)

—Jason Mason

TORONTO, ONTARIO—WWF at Maple Leaf Gardens: **Johnny Polo** defeated **Virgil** ... **Owen Hart** beat **Bastion Booger** ... World tag team champions **The Quebecers** beat **The Smoking Gunns** ... **Owen Hart** defeated **Rick Martel** ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** beat **Diesel** by disqualification ... **Lex Luger** defeated **Ludvig Borga** ... In a steel cage match, **Bret Hart** beat **Jerry Lawler.**
(10-31-93)

Helmut Herrmann

GERMANY

BAYREUTH—WCW at Oberfrankenhalle: **Rick Steamboat** & **Dustin Rhodes** defeated **Brian Pillman** & **Steve Austin** ... **Johnny B. Badd** beat **Maxx Payne** ... World tag team champions **The Nasty Boys**

defeated **2 Cold Scorpio** & **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** ... In a non-title match, **Ric Flair** beat **Lord Steven Regal** ... **Sting** defeated World champion **Big Van Vader** by disqualification ... **Davey Boy Smith** beat **Rick Rude** by disqualification.
(11-07-93)

—Helmut Herrmann

BIELFELD—WWF at Seidensticker Hall: **The Kid** beat **Doink the Clown** ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** defeated **Irwin R. Schyster** by countout ... **Bob Backlund** beat **Papa Shango** ... **The Headshrinkers** defeated **The Smokin' Gunns** ... **Curt Hennig** beat **Diesel** by disqualification ... In a coffin match, **The Undertaker** defeated **Adam Bomb** ... **Lex Luger** beat **Ludvig Borga.**
(10-12-93)

—Wolfgang Lerner

GREAT BRITAIN

LONDON, ENGLAND—WCW at the Royal Albert Hall: TV champion **Lord Steven Regal** beat **Johnny B. Badd** ... **Dustin Rhodes** defeated **Maxx Payne** ... **Ric Flair** & **Rick Steamboat** beat **Brian Pillman** & **Steve Austin** ... World tag team champions **The Nasty Boys** defeated **2 Cold Scorpio** & **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** ... **Sting** beat **Rick Rude** ... **Davey Boy Smith** defeated World champion **Big Van Vader** by disqualification.
(10-30-93)

—Clive Wootton

BLACKBURN, ENGLAND—WCW at the Arena: **Johnny B. Badd** beat **Maxx Payne** ... World tag team champions **The Nasty Boys** defeated **2 Cold Scorpio** & **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** ... TV champion **Lord Steven Regal** beat **Dustin Rhodes** ... **Sting** & **Rick Steamboat** defeated **Brian Pillman** & **Steve Austin** ... **Ric Flair** beat **Rick Rude** ... **Davey Boy Smith** defeated World champion **Big Van Vader** by disqualification.
(10-27-93)

—Elsie Kellerman

JAPAN

ISHIBE—All-Japan Women: **Chapparita Asari** defeated **Chikako Shiratori** ... **Etsuko Mita** beat **Nummachi** ... **Yumiko Hotta** & **Takako Inoue** defeated **Kaoru Ito** & **Tomoko Watanabe** ... **Bull Nakano** beat **Sakie Hasegawa** ... **Aja Kong** & **Kyoko Inoue** defeated **Akira Hokuto** & **Mima Shimoda.**
(11-05-93)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

TOKYO—Oriental Pro Wrestling at Korakuen Hall: **Goro Tsurumi** & **Kazuhiko Matsuzaki** defeated **Kishin Kawabata** & **Apollo Sugawara** ... **Hiroshi Shimada** & **Nobataka Araya** beat **Shinichi Nakan** & **Hirofumi Miura** ... **Masahiko Takasugi** defeated **Hiroshi Itakura.**
(11-05-93)

—Masanuri Inoue

TOKYO—New Japan at Sumo Hall: **Tokomitsu Ishizawa** defeated **Shinjiro Otani** ... **Manabu Nakanishi** beat **Yuji Nagata** ... **Scott Norton** & **Hercules Hernandez** defeated **Sean Royal** & **The Barbarian** ... **Tatsutoshi Goto** beat **Super Strong Machine** ... **Kengo Kimura, Great Kabuki, Kuniaki Kobayashi, Masashi Aoyagi,** & **Michiyoshi Ohara** defeated **Tatsumi Fujinami, Osamu Kido, El Samurai, Black Cat,** & **Satoshi Kojima** ... **Akira Nogami** & **Takayuki Iizuka** beat **Jushin Liger** & **Wild Pegasus** at 20:36 ... **The Great Muta** & **Hiroshi Hase** defeated **Masa Chono** & **Shinya Hashimoto** at 26:57 ... In a tag team tournament title match, **The Great Muta** & **Hiroshi Hase** defeated **Scott Norton** & **Hercules Hernandez.**
(11-04-93)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

MEXICO

TONALA—AAA at Rio Nilo Coliseum: **Wendy** & **Pantera Surena** beat **La Briosa** & **Neftali** by disqualification ... **El Mexicano, Solar,** & **Angel Azteca** defeated **El Satanico, Pirata Morgan,** & **Espectro** ... In a hair vs. hair match, **Jerrito Estrada** defeated **Piratita Morgan** ... In a match to determine the AAA's first world tag champions, **El Hijo del Santo** & **Octagon** beat **Love Machine** & **Eddy Guerrero** ... **Konnan El Barbaro, Mascara Sagrada,** & **Perro Aguayo** defeated **Mascara Ano 2000, La Parka,** & **Fishman.**
(11-05-93)

—Fernando Higuera

MEXICO CITY—EMLL at Arena Mexico: **Escudero Rojo** & **Reyes Veloz** defeated **Gran Apache I** & **Mestizo** ... **Mocho Cota, Emilio Charles Jr.,** & **Negro Casas** beat **Oso Negro, Ultimo Dragon,** & **Dandy** by disqualification ... **Pierroth Jr., Dr. Wagner,** & **Black Magic** defeated **Canadian Vampire Casanova, King Haku,** & **Rayo de Jalisco Jr.**
(10-15-93)

—Ted Avila

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY JANUARY

COLORADO

DENVER—All-Star Pro Wrestling at the Auditorium Arena: **Bob Brugger** and **George Scott** battled to a 20-minute time-limit draw ... **Don Muraco** pinned **Dick Murdoch** at 11:48 ... **Bill Robinson** pinned **Reggie Parks** at 14:11 ... **Dusty Rhodes** defeated **The Crusher** by disqualification at 8:30 when Crusher threw Rhodes over the top rope ... **Wahoo McDaniel** beat **Superstar Graham** by countout at 10:28.
(01-18-73)

—PWI archives

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO—AWA at the International Amphitheatre: **Jose Betancourt** pinned **Huey Long** ... **Guy Mitchell** and **Dale Lewis** battled to a 20-minute draw ... **Larry Hennig** & **Harley Race** defeated **Angelo Poffo** & **Bobby Managoff** when Hennig pinned Managoff ... **Verne Gagne** pinned **Moose Cholak** with a cradle hold ... In a best-of-three falls match, AWA champion **Mad Dog Vachon** beat **Wilbur Snyder** by countout in the third and deciding fall ... **Johnny Valentine** battled **Dick the Bruiser** to a double-disqualification.
(01-22-66)

—PWI archives

TEXAS

AMARILLO—**Marie Laverne** beat **Ann Casey** ... **Apache Gringo** defeated **Suni War Cloud** ... In a welterweight match, **Chavo Guerrero** beat **Juan Limon** ... In a six-man tag team match, **Eric Rommel, Mr. Wrestling,** & **Ricky Romero** defeated **Koma, Mr. Kuma,** & **Pak Song** ... **Terry Funk** beat **Danny Hodge** ... **Ciclon Negro** defeated **Gorgeous George Jr.**
(01-13-72)

—Susan Collins

"And now for the Match of the Year!"

1993 PAY-PER-VIEW CARDS

WCW BEACH BLAST (Biloxi, MS, Mississippi Coast Coliseum): TV champion **Paul Orndorff** defeated **Ron Simmons** by disqualification when Simmons intentionally threw Orndorff over the top rope at 11:15 ... **2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell** defeated **Tex Slazenger & Shanghai Pierce** when Scorpio pinned Pierce at 12:48 ... **Lord Steven Regal** pinned **Erik Watts** at 7:31 ... **Johnny B. Badd** pinned **Maxx Payne** in a grudge match at 4:50 ... World tag team champions **Brian Pillman & Steve Austin** beat **Arn Anderson & Paul Roma** when Austin pinned Roma at 26:14 ... **Rick Rude** and **Dustin Rhodes** battled to a 30-minute, time-limit, 1-1 draw in an "Ironman Challenge" for the vacant U.S. title ... **Ric Flair** pinned NWA champion **Barry Windham** at 11:15 ... **Davey Boy Smith & Sting** beat **Sid Vicious & Big Van Vader** when Smith pinned Vader at 16:44.
(07-18-93)

WCW FALL BRAWL (Houston, TX, Astroarena): Lord Steven Regal pinned TV champion **Rick Steamboat** to win the title ... **Charlie Norris** defeated **Big Sky** ... **2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell** beat **Paul Orndorff & The Equalizer** when Scorpio pinned Equalizer ... **Ice Train** pinned **Shanghai Pierce** ... **The Nasty Boys** defeated World tag team champions **Arn Anderson & Paul Roma,** as **Brian Knobs** pinned Roma to capture the title ... **Cactus Jack** pinned **Yoshi Kwan** ... **Rick Rude** pinned **Ric Flair** ... In "War Games," **Sting, Shockmaster, Davey Boy Smith,** & **Dustin Rhodes** defeated **Harlem Heat, Big Van Vader,** & **Sid Vicious** when Shockmaster forced **Kole** to submit to a bearhug.
(09-19-93)

WCW HALLOWEEN HAVOC (New Orleans, LA, Lakefront Arena): Shockmaster, Ice Train, & **Charlie Norris** defeated **Harlem Heat & The Equalizer** ... **Paul Orndorff** defeated **Rick Steamboat** by countout when **The Assassin,** who was advising Orndorff at ringside, put a weapon in his mask and head-butted Steamboat, rendering him unconscious ... TV champion **Lord Steven Regal** battled to a 15-minute, time-limit draw with **Davey Boy Smith** ... U.S. champion **Dustin Rhodes** defeated **Steve Austin** ... **The Nasty Boys** defeated World tag team champions **2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell,** as **Brian Knobs** pinned Scorpio to win the title ... **Sting** pinned **Sid Vicious** ... **Rick Rude** beat **Ric Flair** by disqualification ... In a "spin the wheel, make the deal" match that turned out to be a Texas death match, World champion **Big Van Vader** defeated **Cactus Jack.**
(10-24-93)

WCW SLAMBOREE (Atlanta, GA, The Omni): 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell beat **Bobby Eaton & Chris Benoit** when Scorpio pinned Benoit at 9:22 ... **Sid Vicious** pinned **Van Hammer** in 35 seconds ... In a six-man legends match, **Dick Murdoch, Don Muraco,** & **Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka** battled to a no-contest with **Wahoo McDaniel, Blackjack Mulligan,** & **Jim Brunzell** ... In a legends tag team match, **Thunderbolt Patterson & Brad Armstrong** defeated **Ivan Koloff & Baron Von Raschke** when Patterson pinned Von Raschke at 4:39 ... In a legends match, **Dory Funk Jr.** and **Nick Bockwinkel** battled to a 15-minute, time-limit draw ... **Rick Rude** & TV champion **Paul Orndorff** defeated **Dustin Rhodes & Kensuke Sasaki** when Rude pinned Sasaki at 9:25 ... In a bounty match, **Sting** pinned **The Prisoner** at 5:16 ... World tag team champions **Brian Pillman & Steve Austin** beat **Shane Douglas & Rick Steamboat** when Austin pinned Douglas at 16:08 ... NWA champion **Barry Windham** pinned **Arn Anderson** at 10:55 ... **Davey Boy Smith** defeated World champion **Big Van Vader** by disqualification at 16:16.
(05-23-93)

WCW SUPERBRAWL III (Asheville, NC, Civic Center): Brian Pillman & Steve Austin beat **Erik Watts & Marcus Alexander Bagwell** when Pillman pinned Bagwell ... **2 Cold Scorpio** pinned **Chris Benoit** following a roll-up at 19:59, one second before time was to expire ... **Davey Boy Smith** pinned **"Wild" Bill Irwin** following a powerslam ... In a falls-count-anywhere match, **Cactus Jack** beat **Paul Orndorff,** pinning Orndorff in the ring after blasting him with a shovel ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** pinned **The Heavenly Bodies** when **Robert Gibson** pinned **Tom Prichard** after an attempt at outside interference by **Bobby Eaton** failed ... U.S. champion **Dustin Rhodes** defeated **Maxx Payne** (substituting for **Ron Simmons**) by disqualification when Payne pulled referee **Mike Adkins** into Rhodes ... **Barry Windham** pinned NWA champion **The Great Muta** following a DDT to win the title ... World champion **Big Van Vader** defeated **Sting** in a "White Castle Of Fear" strap match.
(02-21-93)

WWF KING OF THE RING (Dayton, OH, Nutter Center): ***First round*—Bret Hart** pinned **Razor Ramon** at 10:25 ... **Curt Hennig** defeated **Mr. Hughes** by disqualification when **Harvey Wippleman** handed Hughes **The Undertaker's** urn and Hughes pounded Hennig with it ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** pinned **Hacksaw Duggan** at 4:59 ... **Lex Luger** and **Tatanka** battled to a 15-minute, time-limit draw. Both were eliminated, thus placing Bigelow in the finals. ***Semifinals*—Bret Hart** beat **Curt Hennig** after reversing a small package at 18:56. ***Finals*—Bret Hart** pinned **Bam Bam Bigelow.** ***Non-tournament matches:*** **Papa Shango** pinned **Owen Hart** ... **The Smoking Gunns & Rick & Scott Steiner** defeated **The Headshrinkers & Money Inc.** when **Billy Gunn** pinned **Ted DiBiase** ... Intercontinental champion **Shawn Michaels** beat **Crush,** as Crush was confronted by the two **Doinks** distracting him at ringside, allowing Michaels to attack him from behind and make the pin ... **Yokozuna** pinned World champion **Hulk Hogan** at 13:08 to win the belt. A photographer stood on the ring apron and emitted a fireball from his flash unit, allowing Yokozuna to legdrop and pin Hogan.
(06-13-93)

WWF ROYAL RUMBLE (Sacramento, CA, Arco Arena): Rick & Scott Steiner defeated **The Beverly Brothers** when Scott pinned Blake following a "Frankensteiner" ... Intercontinental champion **Shawn Michaels** pinned **Marty Jannetty** after **Sensational Sherri** accidentally hit Jannetty with her shoe ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** pinned **Big Bossman** after a flying headbutt from the top rope ... World champion **Bret Hart** defeated **Razor Ramon** by submission ... **Yokozuna** won the 30-man Royal Rumble, last eliminating **Randy Savage.**
(01-24-93)

WWF SUMMERSLAM (Auburn Hills, MI, The Palace): Owen Hart defeated **Barry Horowitz** ... **Razor Ramon** pinned **Ted DiBiase** ... World tag team champions **Rick & Scott Steiner** defeated **The Heavenly Bodies** ... Intercontinental champion **Shawn Michaels** beat **Curt Hennig** by countout ... **Irwin R. Schyster** pinned **The Kid** ... **Jerry Lawler** defeated **Bret Hart** by reverse decision when Hart was ruled to have used excessive force with his sharpshooter ... **Ludvig Borga** defeated **Marty Jannetty** ... In a "rest in peace" match, **The Undertaker** pinned **Giant Gonzales** ... In a six-man tag team match, **Tatanka & The Smoking Gunns** defeated **The Headshrinkers & Bam Bam Bigelow** ... **Lex Luger** defeated World champion **Yokozuna** by countout.
(08-30-93)

WWF WRESTLEMANIA IX (Las Vegas, NV, Caesars Palace): Tito Santana pinned **Papa Shango** ... **Tatanka** defeated Intercontinental champion **Shawn Michaels** by disqualification ... **Rick & Scott Steiner** defeated **The Headshrinkers** when Scott pinned **Samu** after a "Frankensteiner" ... **Doink the Clown** pinned **Crush,** as a Doink clone assisted him while the referee was unconscious ... **Razor Ramon** pinned **Bob Backlund** ... World tag team champions **Money Inc.** defeated **Brutus Beefcake & Hulk Hogan** by disqualification ... **Lex Luger** pinned **Curt Hennig** while Hennig's feet were on the ropes ... **The Undertaker** defeated **Giant Gonzales** by disqualification ... **Yokozuna** pinned World champion **Bret Hart** after **Mr. Fuji** threw salt in Hart's eyes. After the match, Fuji and Yokozuna issued a challenge to **Hulk Hogan,** who accepted, pinned Yokozuna, and was awarded the belt.
(04-04-93)

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between falls

(Continued from page 5)

overlooked merely because their competition is of the same gender.

It is noted in Texas' mini-biography that she has recently feuded with Luna Vachon and Sherri Martel. Both are excellent wrestlers; neither is ranked. Others such as Madusa Miceli, Bambi, Misty Blue Simmes, Terri Power, Debbie Malenko, and Wendi Richter are all worthy of the same recognition given their male counterparts, yet are again overlooked in the "*PWI* 500" listing.

Perhaps in the future, the editors of *PWI* will give the women a special ranking. Select 50 or 100 top female wrestlers to give this portion of the sport the promotion, attention, and respect it most surely deserves.

STEPHANIE HUMMEL
Montreal, Quebec

☎ STAYING WITH VADER

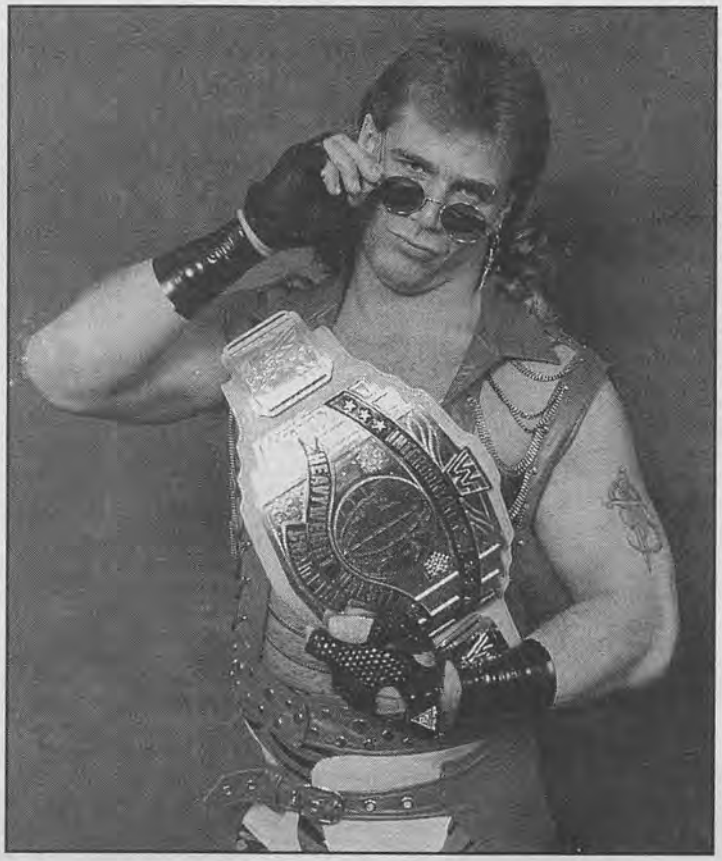
I'm not ordinarily a fan of rule-breakers, but I would have ranked Big Van Vader No. 1 in the "*PWI* 500," ahead of Bret Hart. Vader's perhaps the most dominating wrestler I've ever seen, and I'm enthralled by his mobility, ring intelligence, and aerial moves. If he wasn't so brutal, he would be the most popular wrestler on the planet. Vader must rank with the all-time greats.

CEDRIC PENNINGTON
Newcastle, England

WHY WAS SHAWN STRIPPED?

I can't believe the WWF suspended Shawn Michaels. And if that wasn't bad enough, they stripped him of the Intercontinental belt! There's only one explanation: Vince McMahon finally fell off his

(Continued on page 76)

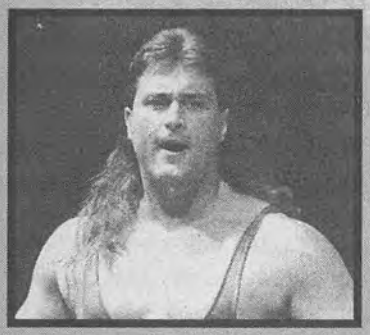


The WWF must be crazy for stripping Shawn Michaels of his Intercontinental title, states reader Jamie Strong. Michaels always defended his belt, says Strong, unlike other WWF champions such as Hulk Hogan.

this month in...

The Wrestler

Why won't WCW sanction **BIG VAN VADER-CACTUS JACK II**?



Believe it or not, **CRUSH** has a master plan: Destroy **YOKOZUNA**!

PLUS...

Wanted: A man to "Finnish" off **LUDVIG BORGA**! ... **SID VICIOUS** and **ARN ANDERSON**: Dual stabbing in London leaves their futures in doubt ... **THE HEAVENLY BODIES**: "Everyone hates us, and we couldn't be happier!" ... An exclusive "Q&A" with **BRIAN CHRISTOPHER**

All this—and much more...in the February 1994 issue of ***The Wrestler***

Sports Review Wrestling

FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

Our advice to **VINCE McMAHON**: Stay out of the ring!

"He's just not **DOINK** anymore!"

PLUS...

YOKOZUNA considers dieting: Don't do it! ... Will **TATANKA'S** first loss ruffle his feathers? ... **NANNY SIMPSON'S** heart-wrenching letter to **CHRIS ADAMS** ... **MAXX PAYNE**: Finally in tune with the fans and himself ... **LUNA VACHON** howls to the WWF: "Bring me some opponents—now!"

All this—and much more...in the March 1994 issue of ***Sports Review Wrestling***

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between falls

(Continued from page 74)

Whether she's wrestling, managing, or modeling, Madusa Miceli has a fan in reader Kenneth Griffin. He met her recently, and says people have a mistaken impression of her from her ring personality.

rocker. Is he nuts? Shawn defended the belt more times than some chumps we used to call champions, but I won't mention Hulk Hogan's name. Michaels is by far the best I-C champ the federation has seen for a long time.

What will they do if Shawn decides to jump to WCW? Then they'll be a sorry bunch of characters. Who's going to take his place? Marty Jannetty? Razor Ramon? The Kid (who's so scrawny, *I* could take him)? Bam Bam Bigelow we'll leave alone, and Bastion Booger—where did they find this slob? Adam Bomb looks like someone who had a few too many last night at the local tavern.

JAMIE STRONG
Buffalo, NY

MAD FOR MADUSA

I would like to say your magazine is the best in the sport. I'd also like to say that I have enjoyed your stories on Madusa Miceli over the years.

I finally had the opportunity to meet her at the Wilson County Fair in Wilson, North Carolina, and may I say she is a fine lady. Madusa took the time to talk with me and to take a picture with me. I learned a lot about Madusa just from talking with her.

People seem to have a wrong interpretation of her just because of the way she is in the ring. Meet her in person, talk with her, and you will find out about the real Madusa. She's an extremely classy human being. I gave her one red rose that night to let her know that she will always have one fan, no matter what.

KENNETH GRIFFIN
Kenly, NC □

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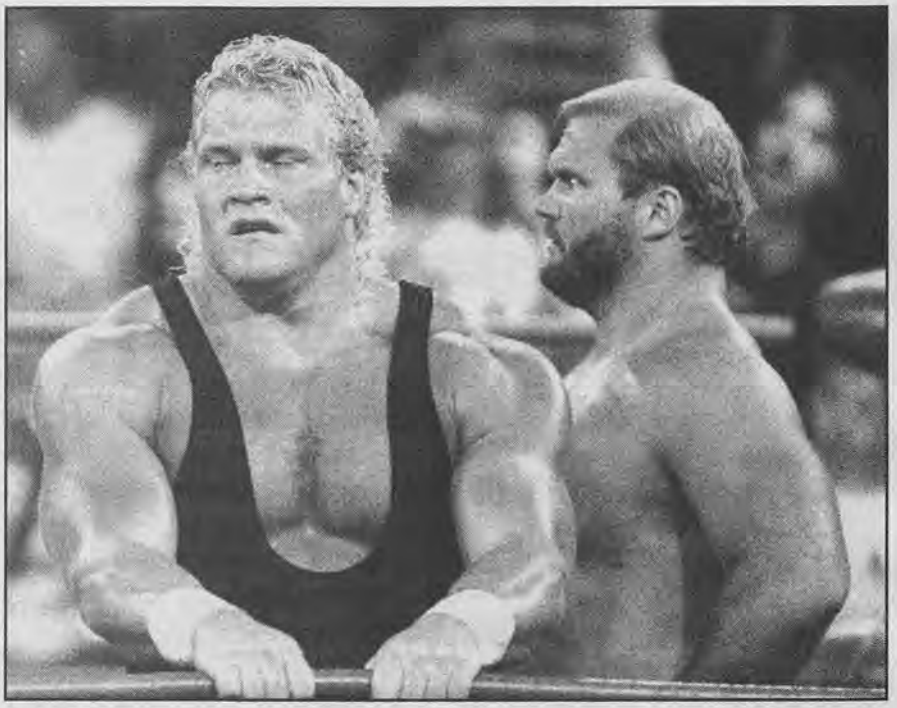
from the desk of...

(Continued from page 8)

I became a sportswriter because I like to report on athletes in competition. Their personal lives are of no importance to me—until they become involved in an activity that could affect their standing in their sport. Without question, the three stories reported in *PWI Weekly* could have a tremendous impact on professional wrestling.

Already we have seen big bouts that were to include Vicious and Lawler canceled, and those stories are just in their developmental stages. Not a lot is known about the incident involving Sid Vicious and Arn Anderson during WCW's U.K. tour. A gag order has been placed, forbidding anyone in the organization from talking about the bloody brawl, but we have been able to establish that they did argue in a hotel bar, they did resume their hostilities in a hotel room, both wrestlers received stab wounds (presumably with a pair of scissors), and both were transported to a hospital for treatment.

Vicious, who was scheduled to wrestle Big Van Vader for the WCW World title at Starrcade, was replaced by Ric Flair.



Sid Vicious and Arn Anderson could do service to themselves and the sport if they settle their grudge in the ring.

We just learned of the charges against Lawler a couple of days before this issue was to go to press. The man who was "honored" by the fans as the year's Most Hated Wrestler for his activities inside the ring, was charged with raping and sodomizing a 13-year-old girl in Louisville, Kentucky. Although detectives say no force was used, having sex with anyone under the age of 14 is considered rape in Kentucky.

Lawler vehemently denies the charges, and there were late reports that the girl had retracted

her story. Still, his WWF ring activity, including the scheduled Survivor Series match in which he was to team with his "Three Knights Of The Ring" against the Hart brothers was in jeopardy.

The federal grand jury investigation of the WWF resulted, as expected, in the indictment of McMahon, and that could have tremendous implications for McMahon, the WWF, and the entire sport. While the WWF head is preparing his defense against charges that he illegally possessed and distributed steroids, his attention will understandably have to shift from running the world's largest wrestling promotion. The WWF, whose image suffered immeasurably in 1991 during the steroid distribution trial (and subsequent conviction) of its long-time attending physician, George Zahorian, and the sex scandals involving several of its key employees, will take a severe beating once again.

Do you want to read about such things? Absolutely. If you're a true fan of the sport, you'll want to know about the problems that its most influential participants face. Ultimately, however, you're a wrestling fan—and we're wrestling writers—because we like wrestling. We all know there are tabloid newspapers that specialize in scandals that make these seem tame by comparison. That is not the focus of *PWI,* and won't be as long as you continue to see the same names in the staff box.

No, we won't shy away from news stories that impact the sport, but we still cringe when we have to report them. We want the wrestlers and administrators to conduct themselves honorably, primarily of course because that is good for society as a whole, but also, admittedly, because it is necessary for the strength and longevity of the business of professional wrestling. You cannot be a true fan of the sport unless you are concerned with the future of the sport.

I've looked back on my columns in the year-end issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED over the last several years, and I find that, in addressing the state of the sport, the news surrounding the sport is the prevailing theme time after time. Maybe part of the problem is journalists like myself. As I sat to write these columns, I've allowed myself to be overcome with negativism. As you read this magazine, however, the overall feeling you get is that 1993 was a fairly typical year in pro wrestling: Men and women fought for titles with all their talents and pride, bad men turned good, good men turned bad, feuds were waged, blood was spilled, athletes turned in performances that will be remembered in the annals of wrestling history.

The good stuff that made us all fans of wrestling was still there in abundance.

So as we usher in the new year, here's hoping that Sid Vicious and Arn Anderson settle their differences in front of a packed arena, that the charges leveled against Jerry Lawler were unfounded, that Vince McMahon and the WWF are speaking the truth when they say they did not distribute steroids illegally, that we can once again focus all of our attention on the great athletes that share their gifts with us within the confines of a wrestling ring. □

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(Continued from page 16)

back was only meant to be temporary, merely to help out a friend—Beefcake—in need. He never expected to wrestle for the World title, so he never planned to allot time in his schedule for a series of defenses. The only obligation he had was to defend the title at the next pay-per-view.

The problem with that is while Hogan's arguments may have made a lot of sense to him, he was disappointing and even angering his most loyal fans. They are the real engine driving

Hogan's wrestling future may be in Japan, where he both teamed with and opposed The Great Muta. North American fans haven't seen him wrestle live in months—but they could see him act, either in films or on television.

Hulkamania. Just when it looked as though their man was going to rule the WWF once more, he took a vacation from the title.

Had Hogan maintained a vigorous schedule of title defenses, his loss of the title to Yokozuna at King Of The Ring probably would not have damaged his reputation. But because he lost the belt in his first defense, he created a lot of doubts about his ability and about his desire to be a champion.

Admittedly, he did make an attempt to erase some of those doubts. On the WWF's summer tour of Europe, Hogan defeated Yokozuna by disqualification several times. In September in Japan, he teamed with Muta to defeat former IWGP tag team champions Hawk and Kensuke Sasaki; three days later he defeated Muta.

However, this all happened away from the eyes of North American fans. It is one thing to read about a victory in the press; it is another to see it in person. It was thus difficult to get excited about his latest exploits.

What fans saw instead were Hogan's talk-show appearances to promote his latest movie, *Mr. Nanny*. And not even his biggest fans can get worked up for a film the way they can for a big match. The flick was a box-office flop.

By now everyone's getting tired of the old "wrestling vs. Hollywood" debate. It is in fact a false choice; there is no reason Hogan cannot occasionally wrestle while maintaining a movie career. What Hogan will not be able to do is dominate the sport on a part-time basis.

The recent strong efforts against Yokozuna and Muta demonstrate that Hogan is still a solid competitor. If he chooses to devote his energies to wrestling full-time, he will probably win a sixth World title. But it is becoming increasingly clear now that he wants a career outside the ring. For him, wrestling was once an obsession; now, it's a good way to get exercise.

It was odd to look at this year's Achievement Awards and not see Hogan's name among any of the winners or the top runners-up. The same thing happened in 1992, but for some reason I didn't notice it as much.

As Robin Williams might have said: Hulkamania, what a concept. □

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2) Pacific Heights
3) Venice Beach
4) Newport Beach

At what University did Ron Simmons play football?
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2) Florida State University
3) Michigan State University
4) Oglethorpe University

True or False: Giant Gonzales competed in the 1984 Olympics as a member of Argentina's water polo team
1) True
2) False

The Undertaker was once tag team partner with...
1) Lou Albano
2) Sergeant Slaughter
3) Rick Steiner
4) None of the above

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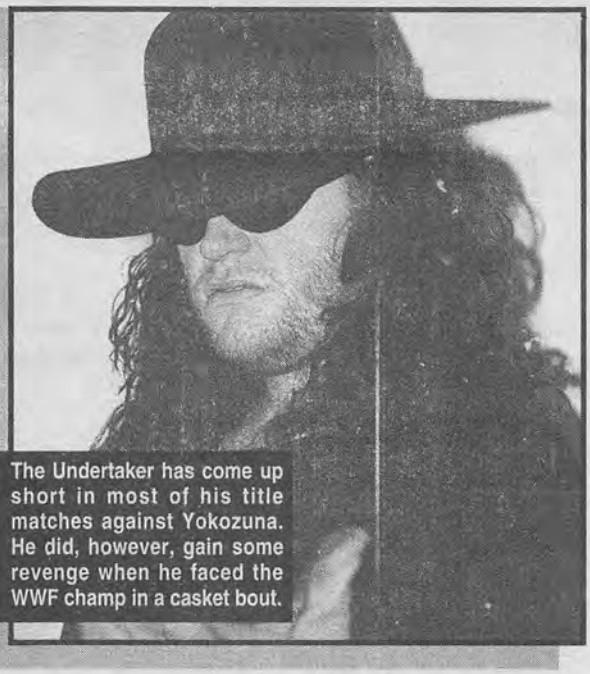
(Continued from page 7)



The Undertaker has come up short in most of his title matches against Yokozuna. He did, however, gain some revenge when he faced the WWF champ in a casket bout.

have confided to me that they can't recall seeing the "Macho Man" this obsessed with a feud in some time.

On a recent edition of *WWF Monday Night Raw* in Bushkill, Pennsylvania, Savage wouldn't even allow Crush to make his way to the ring before he attacked him. After the melee was broken up, WWF officials locked Crush inside his dressing room. But when cameras showed him breaking out, Savage again left his broadcasting position to brawl with Crush. Still later, the two fought outside the arena.

Before the first incident, "Macho Man" even threw aside federation head **Vince McMahon**, who had tried to restrain him. Strange, especially considering it was McMahon's interference in Memphis that helped Savage defeat **Jerry Lawler** for the USWA title several weeks earlier.

So Savage now has Lawler, Crush, and maybe even **Hulk Hogan** on his bad side. "Macho Man" recently lambasted the five-time WWF World champ on *Radio WWF*. So much for Savage's semi-retirement!

The Undertaker got a measure of revenge against World champion **Yokozuna**. The Samoan has gotten the better of him lately ... with some help from **Mr. Fuji** and his salt bucket. But Undertaker scored a win when he got his kind of bout: a casket match. He grabbed Yokozuna's bucket just as Yoko was about to smash him with it, then blasted

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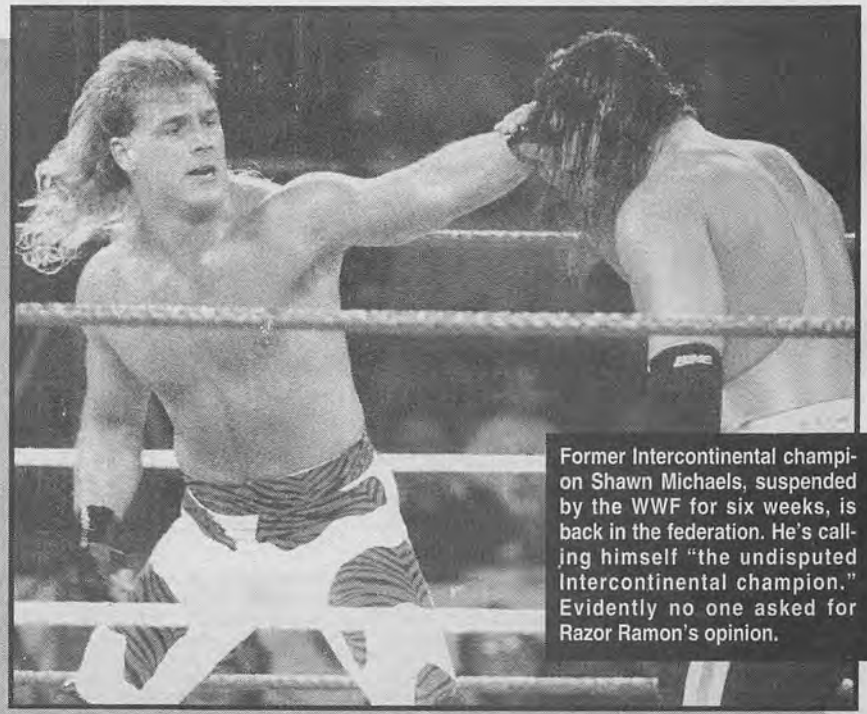

Former Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels, suspended by the WWF for six weeks, is back in the federation. He's calling himself "the undisputed Intercontinental champion." Evidently no one asked for Razor Ramon's opinion.

Is it possible rivals "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony and Tracey Smothers could become friends? After a recent staredown in Newton, North Carolina, Smothers simply walked away.

him and rolled him into the casket placed at ringside. No title was on the line, but it was a significant win nonetheless.

How's this for strange: When **Bam Bam Bigelow** couldn't make his match against **Doink the Clown** in Providence, Rhode Island, **"Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi** took his place. And **Luna Vachon** was in his corner. Still loony, but loyal!

For those of you who thought the WWF conspired to destroy former I-C champ **Shawn Michaels** by stripping him of the belt without giving any *real* specific reasons, well ... *he's back!* Michaels appeared at TV tapings in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, and Dehli, New York, and proclaimed himself "the undisputed Intercontinental champion."

I think it's a good move by the WWF. If Michaels and current titlist **Razor Ramon** get the chance to wrestle (and you can bet they will), we'll know for sure who is the real undisputed I-C champ.

In Smoky Mountain news, **"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony** is now a fan favorite, but that doesn't mean he and old rival **Tracey Smothers** have made friends. Anthony interfered on behalf of Smothers and **The Rock 'n' Roll Express**, who were facing **The Heavenly Bodies** and SMW champ **Brian Lee** at a TV taping in Newton, North Carolina. Action took place all over the arena, leaving Anthony and Smothers alone in the ring. After a lengthy staredown, Smothers walked away.

Jim Cornette has taken **The Moondogs** into his camp. Smoky Mountain officials, though, refuse to sanction their matches because **Rex** and **Spot** are too wild and violent. Still, Cornette's got the crazy canines trying to destroy the Rock 'n' Rolls, while his Heavenly Bodies are targeting **The Bruise Brothers**, who fell out with Cornette and are cleaning up their act. Not an easy job if you've seen **Ron** and **Don Harris** lately!

That's all for now. See you at ringside! □

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(Continued from page 18)

ed in incorporating professional wrestling into my next installation. I work in all mediums, but would like suggestions as to what materials would best represent the wrestling struggle.

IAN PAI
Seoul, South Korea

Dear Ian,

A decade with this column and not a single letter from an artist, then *boom,* two in one month. At least this one doesn't smack of pretension and artifice. You, sir, pose a compelling question. How best to represent the wrestling form? It would seem to depend on the form in question. Any likeness of Sid Vicious should involve a welding of metals. Should Jerry Lawler commission a bust of himself—a likely possibility—a ride to your local pet food store should yield the necessary materials. (Whether to use dry or moist is up to you.) Any rendering of The Rock 'n' Roll Express would benefit from a liberal use of hair gel. And for your life-sized masterpiece of Dusty Rhodes, the choice here would be Health Valley Buckwheat pancake batter, overlaid with a coating of Karo light corn syrup.

Many delightful and exciting things happened in wrestling during 1993. But let's also remember the passing of Andre the Giant; the deaths of Andre and Kerry Von Erich robbed the wrestling community of two of its most misunderstood greats.

Dear Eddie,

What do you think was the highlight of 1993? My pick is Lex Luger's bodyslam of Yokozuna, with Hulk Hogan's fifth WWF title victory a close second.

BILLY TOMPKINS
Davenport, IA

Dear Billy,

Luger's bodyslam did not compare to Big Van Vader's near-fatal power bomb of Cactus Jack. Hogan's title victory just served to symbolize a wrestling career based on deceit and special interest. Clearly, Billy, your grasp of history is that of a moron's. 1993 was most noteworthy not for what it contained, but for what it lost. Andre the Giant and Kerry Von Erich, two of the mat sport's most misunderstood superstars, succumbed to the Grim Reaper; both stars, in different respects, suffered from a profound inability to understand themselves. The hope is that wherever they are, they have achieved the peace that eluded them here on earth.

Dear Eddie,

Who is a better manager: Toni Adams, Missy Hyatt, or Miss Elizabeth?

DINA MERANDA
Cold Spring Harbor, NY

Dear Dina,

I can't dignify your question with a response you wouldn't find sexist or insulting. (Incidentally, the correct term would be "best manager," since you list three choices.) Suffice to say the answer is: none of the above. □

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[NOTE: Cover stories noted in boldface.]

January 1983/CENTERFOLD: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat,** Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.
April 1983/CENTERFOLD: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras,** Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.
July 1983/CENTERFOLD: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich,** Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.
August 1983/CENTERFOLD: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper,** Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.
December 1983/CENTERFOLD: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes,** Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.
January 1984/CENTERFOLD: Harley Race. **Rick Martel,** Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.
June 1984/CENTERFOLD: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase,** Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.
July 1984/CENTERFOLD: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant,** JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.
September 1985/CENTERFOLD: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.,** Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.
February 1986/CENTERFOLD: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich,** Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.
October 1986/CENTERFOLD: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff,** Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Luger, Simpson.
January 1987/CENTERFOLD: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper,** Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.
November 1987/CENTERFOLD: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff,** Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.
January 1988/CENTERFOLD: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase,** Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.
May 1988/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **Andre,** Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.
August 1988/CENTERFOLD: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan,** Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.
December 1988/CENTERFOLD: Hacksaw Duggan. **Four Horsemen,** Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.
February 1989/CENTERFOLD: Jake Roberts. **Luger,** Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.
April 1989/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steiner. **Savage,** Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.
June 1989/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steamboat. **Hogan vs. Savage,** Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.
July 1989/CENTERFOLD: Roddy Piper. **Steamboat,** Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.
October 1989/CENTERFOLD: Rick Rude. **Luger vs. Hogan,** Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.
December 1989/CENTERFOLD: Jimmy Snuka. **Luger, Vicious, Muta, Sting,** Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.
January 1990/CENTERFOLD: Sid Vicious. **Ultimate,** Cornette, Ross, Kerry.
February 1990/CENTERFOLD: Bret Hart. **Lex Luger,** Hogan, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams, Woman.
April 1990/CENTERFOLD: Dusty Rhodes. **Ric Flair,** Hennig vs. Hogan, Sting, Rockers, Lawler.
June 1990/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **Hogan vs. Warrior,** R&R Express, Rhodes vs. Savage, Arn vs. Sawyer.
July 1990/CENTERFOLD: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger,** Beefcake, Skyscrapers, Heenan, Saito, referees.
September 1990/CENTERFOLD: Rick & Scott Steiner. **Hogan,** Sting, Horsemen, Hennig.
October 1990/CENTERFOLD: Brutus Beefcake. **Sting,** Tugboat, Ultimate, Long, Blanchard-Orndorff.
November 1990/CENTERFOLD: Legion of Doom. **Sting beats Flair,** Rude-Warrior.
April 1991/CENTERFOLD: Tom Zenk. **Sgt. Slaughter,** Hogan & Warrior, Magnum T.A., Lawler-Gilbert.
May 1991/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **Hogan,** Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.
July 1991/CENTERFOLD: Brian Pillman. **Hogan,** Luger, Demolition, Embry, Horsemen-Vicious.
October 1991/CENTERFOLD: Lex Luger. **Justice,** Hogan-Slaughter, Windham, Williams.
November 1991/CENTERFOLD: Bobby Eaton. **Savage & Elizabeth,** Bushwhackers, Liger, Pillman.
December 1991/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steamboat. **PWI 500,** Simmons, Badd, Hogan-Flair.
January 1992/CENTERFOLD: Ron Simmons. **Flair,** R. Steiner, Ultimate, Luger.
February 1992/CENTERFOLD: 1992 calendar. **Hogan,** Gilbert, Roberts-Justice, hot prospects.
June 1992/CENTERFOLD: Dustin Rhodes. **Piper** interview, Abdullah-Cactus, Flair-Savage, Justice.
July 1992/CENTERFOLD: Randy Savage. **Best of the Best,** Flair, U.S.-Japan, Savage.
September 1992/CENTERFOLD: Nikita Koloff. **Sting-Savage,** Justice, Backlund, Steiners, Michaels.
November 1992/CENTERFOLD: The Ultimate Warrior. **British Bulldog,** Undertaker, Steiners, Honky Tonk Man interview.
December 1992/CENTERFOLD: Big Van Vader. **PWI 500,** Bossman-Nailz, Watt & WCW rules, Justice interview.
January 1993/CENTERFOLD: Jeff Jarrett. **Flair/SummerSlam,** Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich interview.
February 1993/CENTERFOLD: Curt Hennig. **Ramon,** Snuka-Muraco, Rude, Rhodes, Roberts interview.
April 1993/CENTERFOLD: Barry Windham. **Steiners,** Backlund, Sting-Muta, Hawk-Sasaki.
May 1993/CENTERFOLD: Undertaker. **WrestleMania IX preview,** Cactus Jack, Madusa-Sherri.
June 1993/CENTERFOLD: Razor Ramon. **Flair,** Race-Vader, Lawler-Hennig, Kamala, WWF's egoists.
July 1993/CENTERFOLD: Davey Boy Smith. **Hulk Hogan.** Vader, Yokozuna, Hart, Slamboree, Flair-Rude.
September 1993/CENTERFOLD: Paul Orndorff. **Sting & Hogan.** Luger, Sherri-Shango, Blonds.
October 1993/CENTERFOLD: Marty Jannetty. **WWF Midyear Report.** Vicious, Anderson, Hart-Hogan.
November 1993/CENTERFOLD: Steiners. **WCW Midyear Report.** Doink, Funk-Gilbert, Race, Yokozuna.
December 1993/CENTERFOLD: Bret Hart. **PWI 500.** Luger, Davey Boy Smith, Cactus Jack.
January 1994/CENTERFOLD: Jerry Lawler. **Doink.** Nasty Boys, Steiners, Cornette, Vicious.
February 1994/CENTERFOLD: Sid Vicious. **PWI or WCW—Who's Better?** Race-Rhodes, Hogan-Muta, Hart.

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ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS: PAST WINNERS

This is a listing of all the Achievement Award winners and runners-up from past years. It should be noted that runners-up were not reported in our magazines until the 1976 awards, presented in *Victory Sports Series 1977 Wrestling Annual #18*. Most categories stretch back to 1972, when the awards were first instituted. A few don't; this is because the award for Most Improved Wrestler was created in 1978, while Feud of the Year was instituted in 1986 and Comeback of the Year was created last year. The Editors' Award was first presented in 1981.

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

1992: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Ron Simmons, 2—Rick Rude, 3—Bret Hart

1991: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Lex Luger, 2—Bret Hart, 3—Sting

1990: Sting
Runners-up: 1—Ultimate Warrior, 2—Hulk Hogan, 3—Lex Luger

1989: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Lex Luger, 3—Rick Steamboat

1988: Randy Savage
Runners-up: 1—Jerry Lawler, 2—Lex Luger, 3—Ric Flair

1987: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Randy Savage, 3—Steve Williams

1986: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Randy Savage, 3—Nikita Koloff

1985: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Rick Martel, 3—Sgt. Slaughter

1984: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Kerry Von Erich, 3—Rick Martel

1983: Harley Race
Runners-up: 1—Nick Bockwinkel, 2—Andre the Giant, 3—Bob Backlund

1982: Bob Backlund
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Hulk Hogan, 3—Jimmy Snuka

1981: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund, 2—Tommy Rich, 3—Dusty Rhodes

1980: Bob Backlund
Runners-up: 1—Harley Race, 2—Verne Gagne, 3—The Iron Sheik

1979: Harley Race
Runners-up: 1—Dusty Rhodes, 2—Jimmy Snuka, 3—Bob Backlund

1978: Dusty Rhodes
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund, 2—Rick Steamboat, 3—Harley Race

1977: Dusty Rhodes
Runners-up: 1—Superstar Graham, 2—Bob Backlund, 3—Harley Race

1976: Terry Funk
Runners-up: 1—Bruno Sammartino, 2—Nick Bockwinkel, 3—Paul Jones

1975: Mr. Wrestling II

1974: Bruno Sammartino

1973: Jack Brisco

1972: Pedro Morales

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

1992: Terry Gordy & Steve Williams
Runners-up: 1—The Natural Disasters, 2—Rick & Scott Steiner, 3—Barry Windham & Dustin Rhodes

1991: Larry Zbyszko & Arn Anderson
Runners-up: 1—Legion of Doom, 2—Rick & Scott Steiner, 3—Robert Fuller & Jeff Jarrett

1990: Rick & Scott Steiner
Runners-up: 1—Demolition, 2—Doom, 3—Legion of Doom

1989: Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson
Runners-up: 1—Demolition, 2—The Road Warriors, 3—Jim Garvin & Michael Hayes

1988: The Road Warriors
Runners-up: 1—The Midnight Express, 2—Demolition, 3—Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson

1987: The Midnight Express
Runners-up: 1—The Hart Foundation, 2—The Road Warriors, 3—The Rock 'n' Roll Express

1986: The Rock 'n' Roll Express
Runners-up: 1—The Road Warriors, 2—The British Bulldogs, 3—The Midnight Rockers

1985: The Road Warriors
Runners-up: 1—Ted DiBiase & Steve Williams, 2—Ivan & Nikita Koloff, 3—The British Bulldogs

1984: The Road Warriors
Runners-up: 1—Kerry, Kevin, & Mike Von Erich, 2—The Fabulous Ones, 3—The Rock 'n' Roll Express

1983: The Road Warriors
Runners-up: 1—Kerry, Kevin, & David Von Erich, 2—Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, & Buddy Roberts, 3—Jack & Jerry Brisco

1982: Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell
Runners-up: 1—Mr. Fuji & Mr. Saito, 2—The Freebirds, 3—Ole Anderson & Stan Hansen

1981: The Fabulous Freebirds
Runners-up: 1—Rick Martel & Tony Garea, 2—Mr. Fuji & Mr. Saito, 3—

Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell

1980: Jimmy Snuka & Ray Stevens
Runners-up: 1—Mr. Wrestling & Mr. Wrestling II, 2—The Samoans, 3—Verne Gagne & Mad Dog Vachon

1979: Ivan Putski & Tito Santana
Runners-up: 1—Jerry & Johnny Valiant, 2—Paul Jones & Baron Von Raschke, 3—The Spoiler & Mark Lewin

1978: Rick Steamboat & Paul Jones
Runners-up: 1—The Yukon Lumberjacks, 2—Mike Graham & Steve Keirn, 3—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell

1977: Gene & Ole Anderson
Runners-up: 1—Mr. Fuji & Prof. Tanaka, 2—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell, 3—Ric Flair & Greg Valentine

1976: The Executioners
Runners-up: 1—Gene & Ole Anderson, 2—Billy White Wolf & Chief Jay Strongbow, 3—Jimmy & Johnny Valiant

1975: Gene & Ole Anderson

1974: Jimmy & Johnny Valiant

1973: Nick Bockwinkel & Ray Stevens

1972: Bruiser & Crusher

MATCH OF THE YEAR

1992: Davey Boy Smith vs. Bret Hart
Runners-up: 1—Brian Pillman vs. Jushin Liger, 2—Royal Rumble, 3—Rick Steamboat vs. Rick Rude

1991: The Steiners vs. Sting & Lex Luger
Runners-up: 1—Bret Hart vs. Curt Hennig, 2—Lex Luger vs. Ron Simmons, 3—Cactus Jack vs. Eddie Gilbert

1990: Hulk Hogan vs. Ultimate Warrior (Warrior wins WWF World title)
Runners-up: 1—Sting vs. Ric Flair, 2—Hulk Hogan vs. Earthquake, 3—Royal Rumble

1989: Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat (Flair wins his sixth NWA World title)
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Randy Savage, 2—Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat, 3—Eric Embry vs. P.Y. Chu-Hi

1988: Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan (Andre wins WWF World title)
Runners-up: 1—Sting vs. Ric Flair, 2—Jerry Lawler vs. Curt Hennig, 3—Ultimate Warrior vs. Honky Tonk Man

1987: Rick Steamboat vs. Randy Savage (Steamboat wins WWF I-C title)
Runners-up: 1—War Games/The Match Beyond I, 2—Hulk Hogan vs. Andre the Giant, 3—Ronnie Garvin vs. Ric Flair

1986: Dusty Rhodes vs. Ric Flair (Dusty wins NWA World title at Great American Bash)
Runners-up: 1—The British Bulldogs vs. Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake, 2—The Road Warriors vs. Ronnie Garvin & Magnum T.A., 3—Hulk Hogan vs. Paul Orndorff

1985: Hulk Hogan & Mr. T vs. Roddy Piper & Paul Orndorff (WrestleMania I)
Runners-up: 1—The Road Warriors vs. Ivan & Nikita Koloff, 2—Ric Flair vs. Nikita Koloff, 3—Rick Martel vs. Bob Backlund

1984: Kerry Von Erich vs. Ric Flair (Von Erich captures NWA World title)
Runners-up: 1—Rick Martel vs. Jumbo Tsuruta, 2—Hulk Hogan vs. The Iron Sheik, 3—Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat

1983: Harley Race vs. Ric Flair (Race wins seventh NWA World title)
Runners-up: 1—Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood vs. Sgt. Slaughter & Don Kernodle, 2—Don Muraco vs. Pedro Morales, 3—Tommy Rich vs. Buzz Sawyer

1982: Bob Backlund vs. Jimmy Snuka (cage match)
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund vs. Ric Flair, 2—Nick Bockwinkel vs. Otto Wanz, 3—Nick Bockwinkel vs. Otto Wanz

1981: Andre the Giant vs. Killer Khan
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair vs. Dusty Rhodes, 2—Bob Backlund vs. Don Muraco, 3—Michael Hayes vs. Terry Gordy

1980: Bruno Sammartino vs. Larry Zbyszko (cage match)
Runners-up: 1—Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan, 2—Verne Gagne vs. Nick Bockwinkel, 3—Dusty Rhodes vs. Bob Backlund

1979: Dusty Rhodes vs. Harley Race (Rhodes wins NWA World title)
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund vs. Pat Patterson, 2—Nick Bockwinkel vs. Bob Backlund, 3—Mr. Wrestling II vs. Ernie Ladd

1978: Bob Backlund vs. Superstar Graham (Backlund wins WWF World title)
Runners-up: 1—Blackjack Mulligan vs. Ric Flair, 2—Dusty Rhodes vs. Superstar Graham (bullrope match) 3—Rick Steamboat vs. Ric Flair

1977: Superstar Graham vs. Bruno Sammartino (Graham wins WWF World title)
Runners-up: 1—Dusty Rhodes vs. Superstar Graham, 2—Andre the Giant vs. Ric Flair, 3—Greg Gagne vs. Bob Backlund

1976: Bruno Sammartino vs. Stan Hansen
Runners-up: 1—Terry Funk vs. Rocky Johnson, 2—Nick Bockwinkel vs. Baron Von Raschke, 3—Andre the Giant vs. Abdullah the Butcher

1975: Bruno Sammartino vs. Spiros Arion

1974: Dory Funk Jr. vs. Jack Brisco

1973: Harley Race vs. Dory Funk Jr. (Race wins first NWA World title)

1972: Bruno Sammartino wins 22-man Los Angeles battle royal

FEUD OF THE YEAR

1992: The Moondogs vs. Jeff Jarrett & Jerry Lawler
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair vs. Randy Savage, 2—Ultimate Warrior vs. Papa Shango, 3—Rick Rude vs. Rick Steamboat

1991: Ultimate Warrior vs. The Undertaker
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Sgt. Slaughter, 2—Sting vs. Cactus Jack & Abdullah the Butcher, 3—Lex Luger vs. Ron Simmons

1990: Ric Flair vs. Lex Luger
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Earthquake, 2—Ultimate Warrior vs. Rick Rude, 3—Chris Adams vs. Steve Austin

1989: Ric Flair vs. Terry Funk
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Randy Savage, 2—Akbar's Army vs. Eric Embry, 3—Roddy Piper vs. Rick Rude

1988: Ric Flair vs. Lex Luger
Runners-up: 1—Rick Rude vs. Jake Roberts, 2—Kerry Von Erich vs. Jerry Lawler, 3—Hulk Hogan & Randy Savage vs.Ted DiBiase & Andre the Giant

1987: Four Horsemen vs. Superpowers & Road Warriors
Runners-up: 1—Randy Savage vs. Rick Steamboat, 2—Jerry Lawler vs. Tommy Rich & Austin Idol, 3—Brian Adias vs. Kevin Von Erich

1986: Hulk Hogan vs. Paul Orndorff
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair vs. Dusty Rhodes, 2—The Sheepherders vs. The Fantastics, 3—The Midnight Express vs. The Rock 'n' Roll Express

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

1992: Sting
Runners-up: 1—The Ultimate Warrior, 2—The Undertaker, 3—Ron Simmons

1991: Sting

Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Sid Justice, 3—Rick & Scott Steiner

1990: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Sting, 2—Ultimate Warrior, 3—Lex Luger

1989: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Sting, 3—The Ultimate Warrior

1988: Randy Savage
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Sting, 3—Lex Luger

1987: Dusty Rhodes
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Randy Savage, 3—Nikita Koloff

1986: Roddy Piper
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Rick Morton, 3—Nikita Koloff

1985: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Magnum T.A., 2—Kerry Von Erich, 3—Tito Santana

1984: Kerry Von Erich
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Dusty Rhodes, 3—Sgt. Slaughter

1983: Jimmy Snuka
Runners-up: 1—Dusty Rhodes, 2—David Von Erich, 3—Junkyard Dog

1982: Andre the Giant
Runners-up: 1—Tommy Rich, 2—Hulk Hogan, 3—Dusty Rhodes

1981: Tommy Rich
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund, 2—Andre the Giant, 3—Dusty Rhodes

1980: Mr. Wrestling II
Runners-up: 1—Dusty Rhodes, 2—Andre the Giant, 3—Bruno Sammartino

1979: Dusty Rhodes
Runners-up: 1—Andre the Giant, 2—Ivan Putski, 3—Mr. Wrestling II

1978: Dusty Rhodes
Runners-up: 1—Andre the Giant, 2—Rick Steamboat, 3—Bob Backlund

1977: Andre the Giant
Runners-up: 1—Dusty Rhodes, 2—Bob Backlund, 3—Mil Mascaras

1976: Wahoo McDaniel
Runners-up: 1—Chief Jay Strongbow, 2—Mr. Wrestling II, 3—Ivan Putski

1975: Mil Mascaras

1974: Billy Robinson

1973: Chief Jay Strongbow

1972: Jack Brisco/Fred Curry (tie)

MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

1992: Rick Rude
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Jake Roberts, 3—The Moondogs

1991: Sgt. Slaughter
Runners-up: 1—The Undertaker, 2—Lex Luger, 3—Jake Roberts

1990: Earthquake
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Rick Rude, 3—Eddie Gilbert

1989: Randy Savage
Runners-up: 1—Terry Funk, 2—Rick Rude, 3—Lex Luger

1988: Andre the Giant
Runners-up: 1—Barry Windham, 2—Eddie Gilbert, 3—Ted DiBiase

1987: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Andre the Giant, 2—Honky Tonk Man, 3—Lex Luger

1986: Paul Orndorff
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Col. DeBeers, 3—Rick Rude

1985: Roddy Piper
Runners-up: 1—Chris Adams, 2—Ted DiBiase, 3—John Studd

1984: Roddy Piper
Runners-up: 1—Kevin Sullivan, 2—Tully Blanchard, 3—The Iron Sheik

1983: Greg Valentine
Runners-up: 1—Masked Superstar, 2—Kevin Sullivan, 3—Michael Hayes

1982: Ted DiBiase
Runners-up: 1—Blackjack Mulligan, 2—Superstar Graham, 3—Buzz Sawyer

1981: Ken Patera
Runners-up: 1—Don Muraco, 2—Nick Bockwinkel, 3—Roddy Piper

1980: Larry Zbyszko
Runners-up: 1—Greg Valentine, 2—Ernie Ladd, 3—Hulk Hogan

1979: Greg Valentine
Runners-up: 1—Terry Funk, 2—Ken Patera, 3—Ivan Koloff

1978: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Ken Patera, 2—Victor Rivera, 3—Bob Orton Jr.

1977: Ken Patera
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Superstar Graham, 3—Nick Bockwinkel

1976: Stan Hansen
Runners-up: 1—Ox Baker, 2—Terry Funk, 3—The Spoiler

1975: Greg Valentine

1974: The Great Mephisto

1973: Superstar Graham

1972: The Sheik

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

1992: Razor Ramon
Runners-up: 1—Ron Simmons, 2—Virgil, 3—Brian Christopher

1991: Dustin Rhodes
Runners-up: 1—Ron Simmons, 2—The Undertaker, 3—Crush

1990: Paul Roma
Runners-up: 1—Doom, 2—Tugboat, 3—Cactus Jack

1989: Scott Steiner
Runners-up: 1—Brutus Beefcake, 2—Jeff Jarrett, 3—P.Y. Chu-Hi

1988: Sting
Runners-up: 1—The Ultimate Warrior, 2—Iceman Parsons, 3—Jeff Jarrett

1987: Curt Hennig
Runners-up: 1—Al Perez, 2—Honky Tonk Man, 3—Sting

1986: Terry Gordy
Runners-up: 1—Scott Hall, 2—Sam Houston, 3—Wendell Cooley

1985: Steve Williams
Runners-up: 1—Brian Adias, 2—Nikita Koloff, 3—Randy Savage

1984: Billy Jack Haynes
Runners-up: 1—Magnum T.A., 2—Rick Martel, 3—Ronnie Garvin

1983: Brett Wayne Sawyer
Runners-up: 1—Mike Rotundo, 2—Pez Whatley, 3—Brad Rheingans

1982: Barry Windham
Runners-up: 1—Otto Wanz, 2—Buzz Sawyer, 3—Rick Martel

1981: Kevin Sullivan
Runners-up: 1—Sgt. Slaughter, 2—Charlie Cook, 3—Tito Santana

1980: Tony Atlas
Runners-up: 1—Larry Zbyszko, 2—Ted DiBiase, 3—Kerry Von Erich

1979: Tommy Rich
Runners-up: 1—Eddy Mansfield, 2—Kevin Von Erich, 3—Ted DiBiase

1978: Dino Bravo
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund, 2—Rick Steamboat, 3—Tony Atlas

COMEBACK OF THE YEAR

1992: The Ultimate Warrior
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund, 2—The Sheik, 3—Junkyard Dog

INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

1992: Ron Simmons
Runners-up: 1—The Undertaker, 2—Rick Steamboat, 3—Eric Embry

1991: The Patriot
Runners-up: 1—Jerry Lawler, 2—Sid Justice, 3—Bill Dundee

1990: Sting
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Jerry Lawler, 3—Nikolai Volkoff

1989: Eric Embry

Runners-up: 1—Nikita Koloff, 2—Billy Jack Haynes, 3—Ric Flair

1988: Jerry Lawler
Runners-up: 1—Kerry Von Erich, 2—Road Warrior Animal, 3—Jake Roberts

1987: Nikita Koloff
Runners-up: 1—Dynamite Kid, 2—Chris Adams, 3—Superstar Graham

1986: Chris Adams
Runners-up: 1—Magnum T.A., 2—Kerry Von Erich, 3—Steve Williams

1985: Mike Von Erich
Runners-up: 1—Paul Orndorff, 2—Hacksaw Duggan, 3—Kevin Von Erich

1984: Sgt. Slaughter
Runners-up: 1—Kerry Von Erich, 2—Kevin Von Erich, 3—Bob Backlund

1983: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Roddy Piper, 2—Buzz Sawyer, 3—Buddy Rose

1982: Roddy Piper
Runners-up: 1—Jimmy Snuka, 2—Mil Mascaras, 3—Jimmy Valiant

1981: Bob Backlund
Runners-up: 1—Ted DiBiase, 2—Tito Santana, 3—Mr. Wrestling II

1980: Junkyard Dog
Runners-up: 1—Rick Steamboat, 2—Verne Gagne, 3—Mr. Florida

1979: Chief Jay Strongbow
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Mr. Wrestling II, 3—Dusty Rhodes

1978: Blackjack Mulligan
Runners-up: 1—Bruno Sammartino, 2—Mr. Wrestling II, 3—Jim Brunzell

1977: Bob Backlund
Runners-up: 1—Don Muraco, 2—Bruno Sammartino, 3—Terry Funk

1976: Bruno Sammartino
Runners-up: 1—Wahoo McDaniel, 2—Bob Roop, 3—Bob Armstrong

1975: Mike McCord

1974: Dick Murdoch

1973: Johnny Valentine

1972: Lord Al Hays

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

1992: Erik Watts
Runners-up: 1—"Diamond" Dallas Page, 2—Vladimir Koloff, 3—Chaz

1991: Johnny B. Badd
Runners-up: 1—The Patriot, 2—Terri Power, 3—Lightning Kid

1990: Steve Austin
Runners-up: 1—El Gigante, 2—Brad Anderson, 3—Chris Chavis

1989: Mike Enos & Wayne Bloom
Runners-up: 1—Dustin Rhodes, 2—Scotty the Body, 3—Johnathan Holliday

1988: Madusa Miceli
Runners-up: 1—Chris Benoit, 2—Max Pain, 3—Scott Steiner

1987: Owen Hart
Runners-up: 1—Bubba Rogers, 2—Shane Douglas, 3—Doug Furnas

1986: Lex Luger
Runners-up: 1—Bam Bam Bigelow, 2—Sting, 3—Tom Magee

1985: Nord the Barbarian
Runners-up: 1—Kendall Windham, 2—Dan Spivey, 3—Sam Houston

1984: Mike Von Erich
Runners-up: 1—Nikita Koloff, 2—Krusher Khrushchev, 3—Kevin Kelly

1983: Angelo Mosca Jr.
Runners-up: 1—King Kong Bundy, 2—Scott Armstrong, 3—Arn Anderson

1982: Brad Armstrong
Runners-up: 1—Tiger Mask, 2—Mike Rotundo, 3—Kamala

1981: David Sammartino
Runners-up: 1—Brad Rheingans, 2—Curt Hennig, 3—Ron Richie

1980: Terry Taylor
Runners-up: 1—Barry Windham, 2—Rick McGraw, 3—Tom Prichard

1979: Sweet Brown Sugar
Runners-up: 1—Steve Travis, 2—Bryan St. John, 3—Eddie Gilbert

1978: Tommy Rich
Runners-up: 1—Jay Youngblood, 2—David Von Erich, 3—Tully Blanchard

1977: Rick Steamboat
Runners-up: 1—Jimmy Snuka, 2—John Studd, 3—Skip Young

1976: Bob Backlund
Runners-up: 1—Chavo Guerrero, 2—Steve Keirn, 3—Johnny Rivera

1975: Ric Flair

1974: Larry Zbyszko

1973: Cowboy Bob Orton/Tony Garea (tie)

1972: Mike Graham

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

1992: Paul E. Dangerously
Runners-up: 1—Curt Hennig, 2—Harley Race, 3—Jim Cornette

1991: Bobby Heenan
Runners-up: 1—Harley Race, 2—Alexandra York, 3—Paul Bearer

1990: Teddy Long
Runners-up: 1—Bobby Heenan, 2—Ole Anderson, 3—Jim Cornette

1989: Bobby Heenan
Runners-up: 1—Gary Hart, 2—Teddy Long, 3—Gen. Skandor Akbar

1988: J.J. Dillon
Runners-up: 1—Elizabeth, 2—Jim Cornette, 3—Paul E. Dangerously

1987: Jimmy Hart
Runners-up: 1—J.J. Dillon, 2—Jim Cornette, 3—Paul E. Dangerously

1986: Capt. Lou Albano
Runners-up: 1—Paul Ellering, 2—Elizabeth, 3—Jim Cornette

1985: Jim Cornette
Runners-up: 1—Capt. Lou Albano, 2—Paul Ellering, 3—Bobby Heenan

1984: Paul Ellering
Runners-up: 1—Jimmy Hart, 2—Jim Cornette, 3—James J. Dillon

1983: James J. Dillon
Runners-up: 1—Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, 2—Capt. Lou Albano, 3—Paul Ellering

1982: James J. DIllon
Runners-up: 1—Arnold Skaaland, 2—Sonny King, 3—Jimmy Hart

1981: Capt. Lou Albano
Runners-up: 1—Arnold Skaaland, 2—Sir Oliver Humperdink, 3—The Grand Wizard

1980: Sir Oliver Humperdink
Runners-up: 1—Arnold Skaaland, 2—Capt. Lou Albano, 3—The Great Mephisto

1979: Arnold Skaaland
Runners-up: 1—Capt. Lou Albano, 2—Buddy Rogers, 3—Sir Oliver Humperdink

1978: Arnold Skaaland
Runners-up: 1—The Grand Wizard, 2—Bobby Heenan, 3—Gary Hart

1977: The Grand Wizard
Runners-up: 1—Bobby Heenan, 2—Capt. Lou Albano, 3—Lord Al Hays

1976: Bobby Heenan
Runners-up: 1—Lou Albano, 2—Fred Blassie, 3—Gary Hart

1975: George "Crybaby" Cannon

1974: Capt. Lou Albano

1973: The Grand Wizard

1972: Bobby Heenan

PWI EDITORS' AWARD

1992: Stanley Weston

1991: Fabulous Moolah

1990: Buddy Rogers

1989: Gordon Solie

1988: Bruiser Brody & Adrian Adonis

1987: Paul Boesch

1986: Verne Gagne

1985: Dan Shocket

1984: David Von Erich

1983: The Grand Wizard

1982: Lou Thesz

1981: Bruno Sammartino

PWI SUPERSTATS

TITLE CHANGES: 1993

The following is a cumulative listing of all title changes to have taken place in 1993 up to press time. For a thorough up-to-date listing of these championships—and many more—look to the "Roll Call Of Champions" in each monthly issue of INSIDE WRESTLING.

Col. DeBeers

Sabu

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
The Patriot & The Eagle	Tsuyochi Kikuchi & Kenta Kobashi	June 2	Koyama, Japan
Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas	The Patriot & The Eagle	Sept. 9	Omiya, Japan

ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Dan Kroffat	Masanobu Fuchi	May 21	Hakkaido, Japan
Masanobu Fuchi	Dan Kroffat	Aug. 29	Mie, Japan

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Steve Williams & Terry Gordy	Mitsuhara Misawa & Toshiaki Kawada	Jan. 30	Chiba, Japan
Akira Taue & Toshiaki Kawada	Steve Williams & Terry Gordy	May 20	Sapporo, Japan
Stan Hansen & Ted DiBiase*	Akira Taue & Toshiaki Kawada	Sept. 3	Tokyo

**Title vacated Nov. 13 for annual tag team tournament.*

CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING USA TV CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Bart Sawyer	John Rambo	Jan. 9	Portland, OR
Col. DeBeers	Bart Sawyer	Jan. 23	Portland, OR
The Silver Shadow	Col. DeBeers	June 26	Portland, OR
Col. DeBeers	The Silver Shadow	July 10	Portland, OR

EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Don Muraco	The Sandman	Apr. 3	Philadelphia
Tito Santana	Don Muraco	Aug. 8	Philadelphia
Shane Douglas*	Tito Santana	Sept. 9	Roanoke, VA
Sabu	Shane Douglas	Oct. 2	Philadelphia

**Douglas won title by forfeit when Santana did not appear for the match.*

EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TV CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Terry Funk	Jimmy Snuka	Oct. 1	Philadelphia
Sabu	Terry Funk*	Nov. 13	Philadelphia

**Won title from Funk by pinning him in tag team match.*

EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
The Suicide Blonds	Tony Stetson & Larry Winters	Apr. 3	Philadelphia
The Super Destroyers	The Suicide Blonds	May 15	Philadelphia
The Suicide Blonds	The Super Destroyers	May 15	Philadelphia
Eddie Gilbert & The Dark Patriot*	The Sandman & Salvatore Bellomo	Aug. 7	Philadelphia
Tony Stetson & Johnny Hot Body**	Eddie Gilbert & The Dark Patriot	Sept. 18	Philadelphia
Tommy Dreamer & Johnny Gunn	Tony Stetson & Johnny Hot Body***	Nov. 13	Philadelphia

**Won tournament to determine new champion after Suicide Blonds were stripped of belts.*
***Won by forfeit.*
****Stetson & Hot Body won regular match vs. Ian & Axl Rotten, then lost immediate challenge match to Dreamer and Gunn.*

GLOBAL LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Calvin Knapp	Alex Porteau	Feb. 26	Dallas

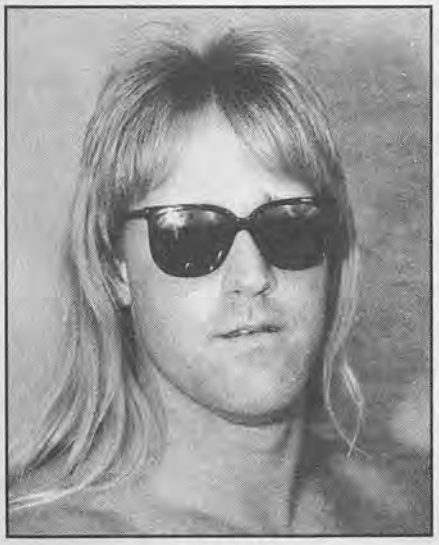
GLOBAL NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Stevie Ray	Rod Price	Feb. 5	Dallas
Rod Price*		June 25	Dallas
Iceman Parsons	Chris Adams**	Sept. 3	Dallas

**By official's decision.*
***Title had been held up.*

Iceman Parsons

Jushin Liger



Brian Lee

GLOBAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
The Bad Breed	John Hawk & Bobby Duncum Jr.	Jan. 29	Dallas
The Ebony Experience	The Bad Breed	Feb. 26	Dallas
Guido Falcone & Vito Mussolini	The Ebony Experience	May 21	Dallas
Chaz Taylor & Steven Dane	Guido Falcone & Alex Porteau*	Sept. 3	Dallas

**Porteau was substituting for Vito Mussolini.*

IWGP CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Shinya Hashimoto	The Great Muta	Sept. 20	Nagoya, Japan

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Scott Norton & Hercules	Kensuke Sasaki & Hawk	Aug. 5	Tokyo

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Jushin Liger	Ultimo Dragon	Jan. 4	Tokyo

NWA CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
The Great Muta	Masahiro Chono	Jan. 4	Tokyo
Barry Windham	The Great Muta	Feb. 21	Asheville, NC
Ric Flair*	Barry Windham	July 18	Biloxi, MS

**WCW withdrew from the NWA on Sept. 1, 1993, thus relinquishing control of the NWA title. Rick Rude won a belt from Flair on Sept. 19 and was labeled a "world champion" by WCW; this belt is not recognized as such by PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED or its related magazines.*

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Steve Williams & Terry Gordy	Mitsuhara Misawa & Toshiaki Kawada	Jan. 30	Chiba, Japan
Akira Taue & Toshiaki Kawada	Steve Williams & Terry Gordy	May 20	Sapporo, Japan
Stan Hansen & Ted DiBiase*	Akira Taue & Toshiaki Kawada	Sept. 3	Tokyo

**Title vacated Nov. 13 for annual tag team tournament.*

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Austin Steele	Italian Stallion	Sept. 17	Kings Mountain, NC

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Flaming Youth	George South	Sept. 17	Kings Mountain, NC
Star Ryder	Flaming Youth	Oct. 30	Kings Mountain, NC

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
The Cruel Connection	Star Ryder & Flaming Youth	Jan. 29	Taylorsville, NC
The Russian Assassins	Star Ryder & Flaming Youth	Mar. 19	Kings Mountain, NC
Flaming Youth & Cruel Connection II	The Russian Assassins	May 1	Sugar Grove, NC
Terry Austin & George South	Flaming Youth & Cruel Connection II	Sept. 17	Kings Mountain, NC

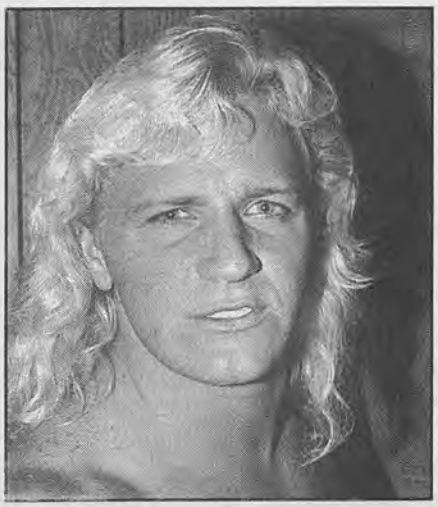
SMOKY MOUNTAIN WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Tracey Smothers	Tony Anthony	Apr. 12	Pikeville, KY
Tracey Smothers	Tony Anthony*	June 11	Knoxville, TN
Brian Lee	Tracey Smothers	July 17	Johnson City, TN

**Title declared held up in May.*

The Rock 'n' Roll Express

Tony Anthony



Jeff Jarrett

SMOKY MOUNTAIN WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
The Heavenly Bodies	The Rock 'n' Roll Express	Jan. 18	Newton, NC
The Rock 'n' Roll Express	The Heavenly Bodies	May 15	Johnson City, TN
The Bruise Brothers	The Rock 'n' Roll Express	June 28	Council, VA
The Rock 'n' Roll Express	The Bruise Brothers	Sept. 11	Morristown, TN

SMOKY MOUNTAIN WRESTLING U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Bobby Blaze	J.R. Benson*	Aug. 8	Columbus, OH
Chris Candido	Bobby Blaze	Oct. 4	Jellico, TN
Bobby Blaze	Chris Candido	Oct. 8	Knoxville, TN
Chris Candido	Bobby Blaze	Oct. 9	Barboursville, KY
Bobby Blaze	Chris Candido	Oct. 10	Johnson City, TN

**Tournament final.*

USWA CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Papa Shango	Jerry Lawler	May 3	Memphis
Owen Hart	Papa Shango	June 21	Memphis
Jerry Lawler	Owen Hart	July 5	Memphis
Tatanka	Jerry Lawler	Sept. 13	Memphis
Jerry Lawler	Tatanka*	Sept. 20	Memphis
Randy Savage	Jerry Lawler	Oct. 11	Memphis

**Lawler beat Tatanka in a Survivor Series final.*

USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION

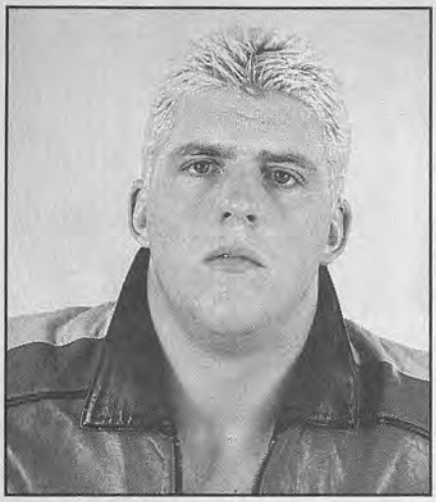
Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Brian Christopher	Jeff Jarrett	Jan. 11	Memphis
Jeff Jarrett	Brian Christopher	Mar. 1	Memphis
Jeff Jarrett	Brian Christopher	June 28	Memphis
Jeff Jarrett	Vampire Warrior	Aug. 23	Memphis
Tommy Rich	Jeff Jarrett	Sept. 13	Memphis
Jeff Jarrett	Tommy Rich*	Oct. 4	Memphis

**Title held up after Tommy Rich-Jeff Jarrett match on Sept. 25.*

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
The Moondogs	Ron & Don Harris	Jan. 11	Memphis
Ron & Don Harris	Jerry Lawler & Jeff Jarrett*	Jan. 25	Memphis
The Moondogs	Ron & Don Harris	Feb. 1	Memphis
Ron & Don Harris	The Moondogs	Feb. 15	Memphis
The Moondogs	Ron & Don Harris	Feb. 22	Memphis
Brian Christopher & Big Black Dog	The Moondogs	Mar. 8	Memphis
The Moondogs	Brian Christopher & Big Black Dog	Mar. 15	Memphis
Brian Christopher & Scotty Flamingo	The Moondogs	Mar. 22	Memphis
The Moondogs	Brian Christopher & Scotty Flamingo	Mar. 29	Memphis
Steve Doll & Rex King	The Moondogs	Apr. 12	Memphis
New Jack & Homeboy	Steve Doll & Rex King	June 21	Memphis
C.W. Bergstrom & Melvin Penrod Jr.	New Jack & Homeboy	July 5	Memphis
The Dogcatchers	The Moondogs	Aug. 16	Memphis
The Moondogs	The Dogcatchers	Sept. 6	Memphis
The Dogcatchers	The Moondogs	Sept. 13	Memphis
Moondog Spike & Mike Anthony	The Dogcatchers	Oct. 4	Memphis
Rex Hargrove & Koko B. Ware	Brian Christopher & Jeff Jarrett	Nov. 1	Memphis
Brian Christopher & Jeff Jarrett	Rex Hargrove & Koko B. Ware	Nov. 8	Memphis

**The Moondogs were stripped of a title due to an injury by Spike. A tournament was held to determine a new champion.*



Dustin Rhodes

Yokozuna

Mitsuhara Misawa

WCW WORLD CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Sting	Big Van Vader	Mar. 11	London
Big Van Vader	Sting	Mar. 17	Dublin, Ireland

WCW U.S. CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Dustin Rhodes	Rick Steamboat*	Jan. 11	Atlanta
Dustin Rhodes	Rick Rude**	Aug. 31	Atlanta

**Tournament final.*
***Title had been held up.*

WCW TV CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Rick Steamboat	Paul Orndorff	Aug. 18	Daytona Beach, FL
Lord Steven Regal	Rick Steamboat	Sept. 19	Houston

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Steve Austin & Brian Pillman	Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas	Mar. 2	Atlanta
Arn Anderson & Paul Roma	Steve Austin & Lord Steven Regal*	Aug. 18	Daytona Beach, FL
The Nasty Boys	Arn Anderson & Paul Roma	Sept. 19	Houston
2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell	The Nasty Boys	Oct. 4	Columbus, GA
The Nasty Boys	2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell	Oct. 24	New Orleans

**Regal was substituting for the injured Brian Pillman.*

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Marty Jannetty	Shawn Michaels	May 17	New York
Shawn Michaels	Marty Jannetty	June 6	Albany, NY
Razor Ramon	Rick Martel*	Sept. 27	New Haven, CT

**Michaels stripped of belt by WWF for failing to meet contractual obligations. Ramon and Martel survived a battle royal to determine the two finalists for the title.*

WWF WORLD CHAMPION

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Yokozuna	Bret Hart	Apr. 4	Las Vegas, NV
Hulk Hogan	Yokozuna	Apr. 4	Las Vegas, NV
Yokozuna	Hulk Hogan	June 13	Dayton, OH

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS

Won by	Won from	Date	Site
Rick & Scott Steiner	Money Inc.	June 14	Columbus, OH
Money Inc.	Rick & Scott Steiner	June 16	Rockford, IL
Rick & Scott Steiner	Money Inc.	June 19	St. Louis
The Quebecers	Rick & Scott Steiner	Sept. 13	New York

CHAMPIONS 1993: THE HONOR ROLL

The following champs have held their titles throughout 1993 and continue to hold their titles as of press time:

MITSUHARA MISAWA

Won the All-Japan International and United National championships, plus the Pacific Wrestling Federation championship, from Stan Hansen, August 22, 1992, in Tokyo

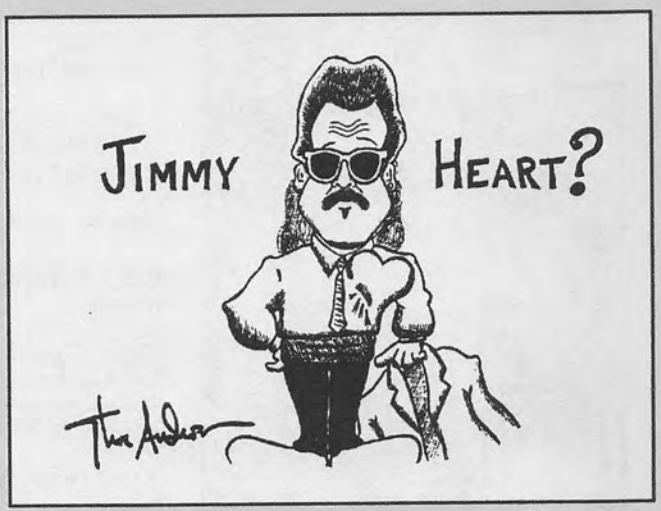
AJA KONG

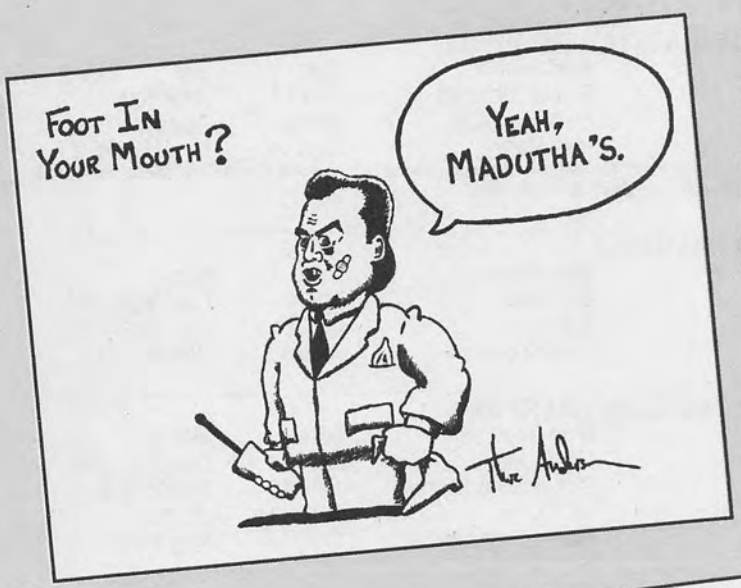
Won the All-Japan Women's International championship from Bull Nakano, November 26, 1992, in Kawasaki, Japan

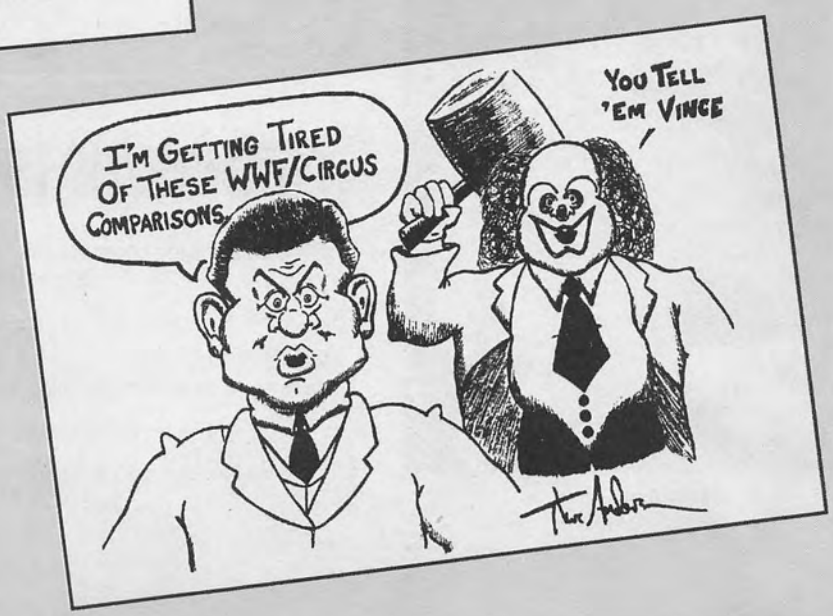
Steve Anderson

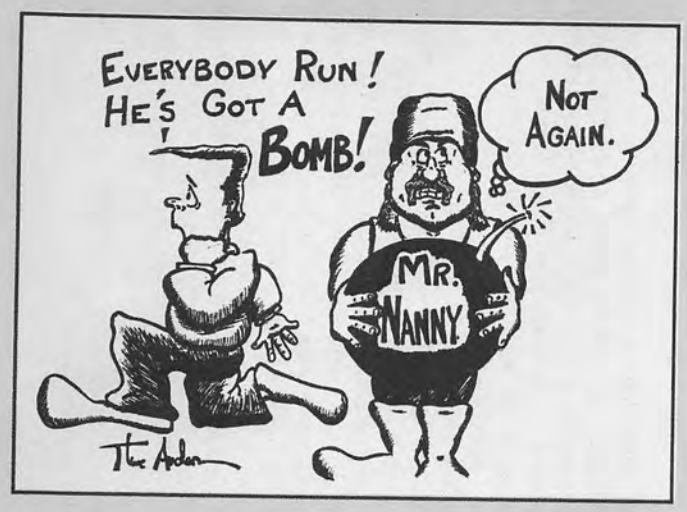
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

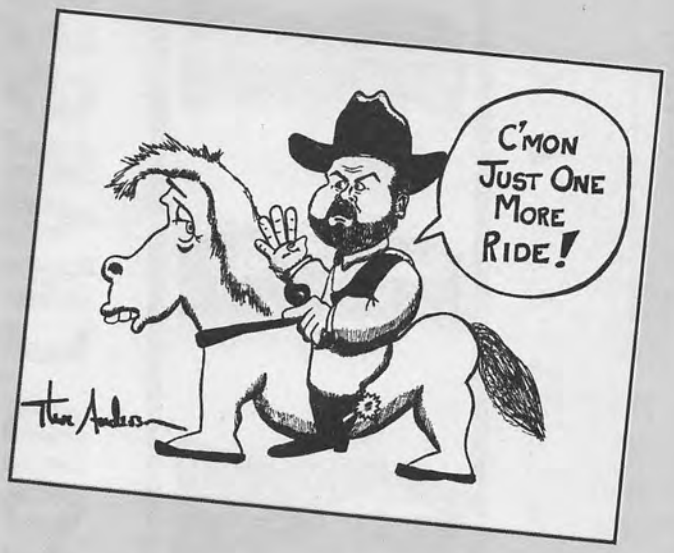
Political cartoonist Steve Anderson provides his unique views on the sport in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* and our sister publication *The Wrestler*. His work on these pages, capturing the year in wrestling, ran in *PWI Weekly* over the course of the past 52 weeks.








EVERYBODY RUN! HE'S GOT A BOMB!
NOT AGAIN.
MR. NANNY
Tex Anders


C'MON JUST ONE MORE RIDE!
Tex Anders

BURGER KING!
I HATE THIS PLACE.
BURGER KING
BURGER KING
Tex Anders

VADER'S WHITE CASTLE OF TERROR...
BURP!
MORE SLIDERS STINGER?
Tex Anders

OTTAT
YOU MEAN YOU WANT THAT CHANGED AGAIN?!
Tex Anders

VOLUME XIV, No. 12 DECEMBER 1993

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

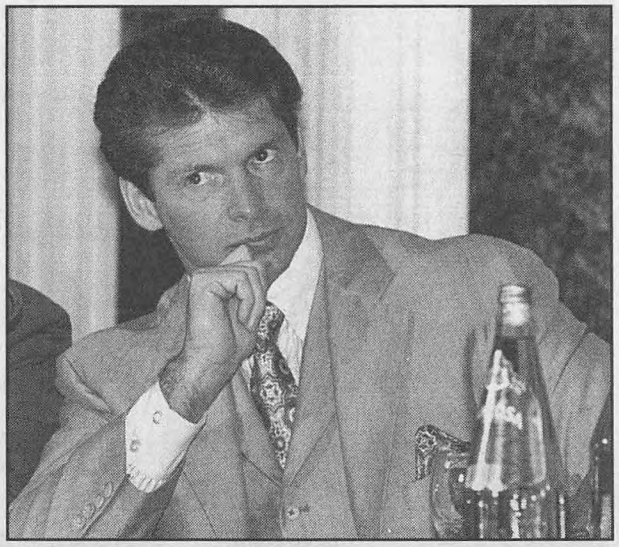
McMAHON INDICTED ON STEROID CHARGES

WWF Head Accused Of Distributing Substances To Wrestlers

By V.J. PATERNO

BROOKLYN, NY—WWF head Vince McMahon was indicted November 18 on charges of possession of anabolic steroids and conspiracy to distribute them, according to U.S. Attorney Zachary Carter of Brooklyn, New York.

McMahon, 47, could face up to five years in prison if convicted on both counts, as well as fines totaling up to $500,000. He has denied all allegations. McMahon allegedly used funds from Titan Sports, the WWF's parent company, to buy and distribute steroids between between 1985 and 1991. Titan, which McMahon owns, faces fines of up to $1-million if convicted on both counts, Carter told the *New York Post*. He said prosecutors also want to seize Titan's corporate headquarters in Stamford, Connecticut.



WWF head Vince McMahon has been indicted on charges that he illegally possessed and distributed anabolic steroids.

"The prosecutors have come up with an indictment in which the only specific charge against me is based upon something I publicly acknowledged before the investigation—I used bodybuilding steroids years ago when using them was legal, though distributing them was not," McMahon said in a prepared statement.

"To turn my personal use into a crime, they claimed that I shared some of those steroids with a friend, and that somehow made me a dealer."

Dr. George Zahorian III, a one-time WWF ringside physician, was convicted of distributing steroids in 1991. Zahorian was named as an unindicted co-conspirator in the McMahon indictment.

"In the conspiracy count, they have simply resurrected charges on which a Pennsylvania doctor was convicted almost three years ago for distributing steroids to wrestlers, and are now trying to make me responsible for what the doctor did," said McMahon. "I did no such thing, and even the doctor was not prosecuted for any conspiracy."

Statutory Rape Charges Against Lawler To Be Dropped?

By STU SAKS

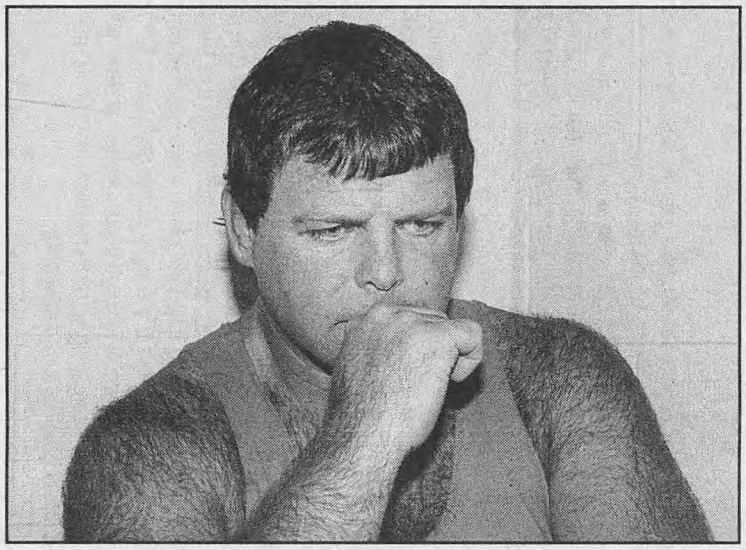
LOUISVILLE, KY—There are conflicting reports concerning the November 12 indictment of Jerry Lawler in which the wrestler was accused of statutory rape and sodomy by a 13-year-old Louisville, Kentucky, girl.

According to a published report in the Memphis *Commercial Appeal,* the girl has recanted her story and all charges have been dropped. A court spokesman in Louisville, however, said that a January 7 pre-trial date has been set and that Lawler is expected to enter a plea at that time.

If the charges have not been dropped as reported, Lawler would be facing three counts of second-degree sodomy, one count of second-degree rape, and one count of harassing a witness. If convicted on all counts, he would face a maximum of 41 years in prison.

However, Robert Massey, Lawler's Memphis attorney, said he met with the girl and her mother at their request and obtained a statement completely exonerating Lawler.

"The young lady said [the alleged incident in Louisville] never happened," Massey told the *Commercial Appeal.* "It just got blown out of proportion and when she tried to stop [the prosecution], the authorities did not want to. They did not want to hear the truth." Massey told the newspaper Lawler has given the girl and her mother nothing in exchange for the statements and that no civil suits had been filed in connection with the case.



USWA star Jerry Lawler has been charged on five counts, relating to an alleged sexual assault of a 13-year-old girl. There are reports that the accuser will be dropping all charges.

Vicious And Anderson Injured After Dual Stabbing

By DAVE LENKER

BLACKBURN, ENGLAND—Two of WCW's top wrestlers, Arn Anderson and Sid Vicious, were rushed to the hospital after a stabbing incident in which both received multiple wounds. They were in England as part of WCW's fall European tour.

According to published reports, they had been arguing in a hotel bar earlier in the evening. The confrontation reportedly turned violent in a hotel room, where furniture was thrown and a scissors was pulled by one man.

After the brawl, both were taken to a local hospital in separate ambulances. Anderson was reported to have suffered 20 stab wounds to various parts of his body; Vicious was said to have received only four.

One published report indicated that several sources confirmed that Sid initiated the brawl when he knocked on Anderson's door, then attacked him with part of a chair. Several other wrestlers broke up the fight.

Both were removed from the tour and flown home. Vicious, who had just signed a contract to face Big Van Vader for the WCW World title at Starrcade, was replaced at that event by Ric Flair. At press time, Anderson's and Vicious' futures in WCW were still unknown.

AROUND THE GLOBE

CARDIFF, WALES

Lord Steven Regal expected to be the toast of his native England when he returned to the U.K. for WCW's tour. He said he planned to present the WCW TV title he won from Rick Steamboat to Queen Elizabeth. But according to WCW insiders, Her Majesty wanted nothing to do with the snobby Regal. His Lordship, incidentally, was greeted with boos in every arena in which he appeared.

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Tragedy struck the mat sport when Oro, one of EMLL's top up-and-comers, died during a match. Oro, 22, was teaming with La Fira and Brazo De Plata in a six-man tag team match against Kahos, Jaquemate, and Dr. Wagner Jr. when he was knocked to the canvas by a chop from Kahos. According to published reports, Oro suffered a brain aneurysm and was pronounced dead when medics arrived during the bout's second fall.

TOKYO, JAPAN

Scott Norton briefly competed in WCW earlier in the year, but lately he's been doing well in Japan. Hercules Hernandez has been a regular partner. The two defeated The Barbarian and Sean Royal and came within a heartbeat of beating The Great Muta and Hiroshi Hase. Norton says he still has a score to settle with Sting. "Don't be surprised if I go back to WCW and beat up on that punk again," he says.

MEMORIES OF 1993
THE EDITORS' PICKS

Finally, we close out this year-end edition of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED by asking our editors to pick the most memorable and enduring moment of the past year. In doing so, we close the book on 1993 and look forward to the next 12 months. In 1994, we wish you and yours another year filled with health, happiness, and the best that professional wrestling has to offer.

V.J. Paterno (Managing Editor): "There were many fascinating stories from 1993. I think of the rise and change of Doink the Clown, the branching-out of Jim Cornette into the WWF, the enigma that is Sid Vicious, the athleticism of Big Van Vader. But the highlight of '93 for me was Ric Flair's return to WCW. It was delightful seeing him beat Barry Windham to become NWA champion—the last one recognized by WCW (and us!). Nobody else, regardless of age, combines talent, charisma, and ring psychology like Flair. Whether you love or hate him, you must respect him. Ric is the one wrestler who merges a fan favorite's likability with the guile of a rulebreaker. He was successful in the WWF, but WCW is his real home."

Stu Saks (Publisher): "I still have trouble believing the real-life soap opera being played out before our very eyes: *Days Of Our Wives*, Flashback, 1990—Chris Adams trains young Steve Austin in his wrestling school. Austin, the ingrate, turns against Adams in the cruelest of manners; he finds Adams' ex-wife, Jeannie, who uses a public forum to reveal how miserably she was treated by Chris. Chris' second wife, Toni, defends her man and ultimately wrestles a series of matches against Jeannie. Into 1993—Toni falls out of love with Chris, leaves him under the identity of Nanny Simpson and later admits her true identity and her contempt for her estranged husband. She joins the camp of Brian Christopher, the man who hates Chris Adams most. Stay tuned, folks."

Bill Apter (Senior Editor): "I am still shocked by the words of WWF's 'broadcast journalist,' Bobby Heenan, when he said, 'The Rock 'n' Roll Express are Smoky Mountain tag team champions!' The WWF *never* acknowledged that any other professional wrestling organization ever existed, until this year. Also, when I saw WWF talent in the USWA, I was shocked, but glad. To me, the year 1993 represents, hopefully, the beginning of future exchanges of talent between WCW, the WWF, and all the independent organizations, much like it was in the '70s."

Dave Lenker (Associate Editor): "Certainly 1993 was a year of dominant world champions. Big Van Vader and Yokozuna have ruled their respective federations in recent months. But it's also been the year of upsets. We all remember The Kid stunning both Razor Ramon and Ted DiBiase, but I won't soon forget my first trip to *WWF Monday Night Raw* at the Manhattan Center. It was the third match on the card: Prelim grappler P.J. Walker was facing Irwin R. Schyster. 'Why are you taking notes on this match?' I asked Bill Apter, who was was feverishly scribbling notes on his pad. 'Why not—strange things happen at *Raw*,' he replied. I'm sure you know the rest of the story. Walker pinned Schyster in stunning fashion after Razor Ramon came out to distract the tax man. I don't think I'll ever take anything in wrestling for granted again."

Jason Lavin (Photo Editor): "My most vivid memory of 1993 came after the horribly grotesque ECW baseball bat match pitting The Headhunters against Miguel Perez Jr. and Crash the Terminator. I was packing up my photo gear by the ring when a fan asked me if the blood that covered my shirt belonged to The Headhunters. I told him I wasn't sure because the blood had flowed pretty freely. He said, 'Damn, if it was, I'd buy the shirt from you.' I said, 'Well, now that you mention it, who knows?' Unfortunately, my asking price was too high and the deal never went through. As I was walking out, I saw the guy dipping his ticket stub into one of the numerous puddles of blood on the arena floor. I guess he got a pretty cool souvenir after all."

Craig Peters (Associate Publisher): "I can hardly believe that this is the 13th time I've looked back on the year just past in the mat sport. Take it from me, folks: Time flies, whether you're having fun or not. Fortunately, I am having fun ... most of the time, anyway. And in each of those 13 years, I've seen amazing things, remarkable things, funny things, sad things, so many things that it becomes more and more impossible each year to pick out the one moment that stands out. Nevertheless, here's an attempt: Cactus Jack's grinning, bloody visage after being defeated at Halloween Havoc. He lost, but he put up a hell of a fight. He was the pure embodiment of determination, the one quality that, more than any other, drives this sport and turns ordinary wrestlers into extraordinary ones." □

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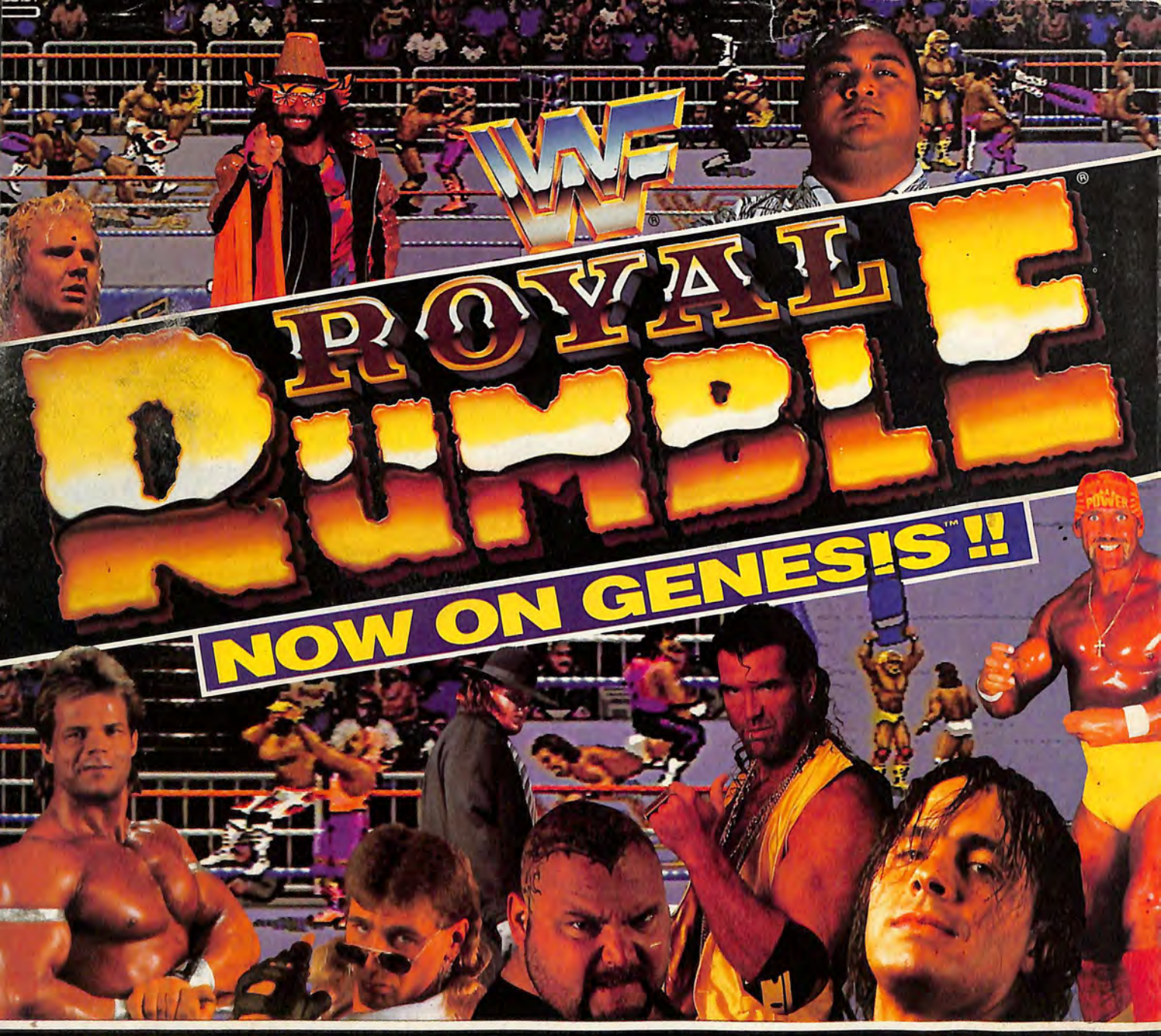

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